

AUSTRALIAN

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WEEKLY

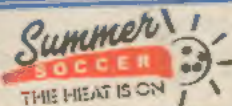
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STARS OF THE '90S



The Quit National League, as part of its campaign to lift the stature of Australia's premier competition and to create its own soccer identities, players the youth of the country can identify with, has embarked on a



publicity programme involving six of the league's up and coming stars. We salute you, from left to right, Paul Okon, Matthew Bingley, Paul Trimboli, John Markovski, Aurelio Vidmar and Steve Georgakis!

Arnold, Bundalo lead on averages

BY GREG BLAKE

THE ASW-Bayswater Indoor Soccer Centre Player of the Year Award has a new leader following the rain-interrupted Round 16 of QNSL matches.



GRAHAM ARNOLD

Alex Bundalo's eight points from a possible 10 as Apia knocked off Melita Eagles in Round 15 has shot Bundalo into equal leadership of the award alongside Sydney Croatia's Soccereroo champion Graham Arnold.

Arnold and Bundalo lead a tightly packed field of some 147 players still eligible for the end-of-year award.

Votes for the ASW Player of the Year Award are tallied and averaged for each QNSL player following each round of games with a player required to poll in at least 20 matches to be in the running at the end of the season.

Goalkeepers are also

in the running for a separate award sponsored by Reusch Australia Pty Ltd.

The leader board after Round 16 is:

6.67: G. Arnold (Syd. Croatia), A. Bundalo (Apia).

6.64: J. Filan (St George), T. McCulloch (Marconi).

6.62: D. Lowe (Marconi).

6.60: K. Hagan (St George), G. Jolevski (Preston).

6.55: A. Davidson (Melb. Croatia).

6.46: M. Durakovic (Sth Melb.), D. Clarkson (George Cross).

6.43: A. Tobin (Adel. City).

6.40: Z. Adzic (Melb. Croatia), G. Phillips (Syd. Olympic).



6.36: T. Pezzano (Apia)

6.33: A. McPherson (Melita), R. Slager (Adel. H).

6.30: J. Caleta (Melb. Croatia)

A true National Cup in September

BY LOU GAUTIER

THE NSL Cup, now being played in almost total indifference, will become a pre-season competition in September.

The NSL will invite clubs from the State Leagues to compete.

This is welcome news as it will create great interest for the various State League teams throughout Australia.

It gives the competi-

tion a true national knock-out flavour and will be ideal preparation for the National League clubs on the eve of their summer season.

The proposed competition, however, may hit a snag in Victoria where the VSF is committed to the Mitre Gold Cup at the same time.

The VSF has negotiated a \$150,000 sponsorship with Mitre.

SAINTS-ADCITY IN NEWCASTLE

St George will play their home match on March 4 against Adelaide City in Newcastle following the recent conclusion of a deal involving local television station NBN-3 and the BHP Austral club.

The match will be played at Austral's Birmingham Gardens ground, with the Newcastle club keen to test local reaction to NSL soccer pending their expected return to the top flight next season.

The truth behind the Best and Law saga

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



Denis Law and George Best were happy enough when this photo with Sydney Olympic's Anthony Stavrinos and George Pashalis and ASW's John Economos was taken.

GEORGE Best and Denis Law left Australia for England via Los Angeles in controversial circumstances last Wednesday.

Best and Law were still under contract to appear in Adelaide and Perth but their promoter suddenly cut their Australian tour short after arguments broke out over money last Friday and Saturday week.

Best said he was promised \$30,000 for the whole tour but promoter Billy Millen, a friend of Best's, decided not to pay him the full amount because he did not turn up at two coaching clinics and at a charity match which was played last Sunday week.

ASW had close contact with Best and Law throughout their stay in Sydney.

We interviewed both former United stars at Sydney's international airport just before they flew out for Los Angeles on their way back to Britain.

Best told us: "What happened between us and Billy Millen was bad."

"He was a friend of mine. I came out here last year for him and the tour was terrific."

"This time round it has been a disaster. You

can forgive your enemies but you cannot forgive your friends," said Best.

Best's main complaint was that the promoter had over-booked and that he and Law were required to do too much.

Best and Law went to Gosford and Newcastle where they were supposed to be paid \$15,000 for three appearances.

They did all three engagements but the crowds were poor and they claim they were only paid \$2,500.

Bad feeling between Best and Law and promoter Millen erupted when the two Brits returned to Sydney last Friday week.

It reached the stage where as of late Friday week Best and Law would not talk to him.

Millen, who was staying at the same motel, checked out on Sunday morning.

He felt that Best and Law did not do enough for their money and he paid all the accounts at the Travelodge Motel up till Saturday night only.

Bill Millen then sent a message to Best and Law informing them he had cancelled the Adelaide and Perth part of their contract because they were "too unreliable."

He also warned them that from Saturday night they would be responsible for all their

food, drink and accommodation costs.

Best told ASW he should not have had to pay any motel accounts at all, but that he had done so.

Best did end up paying in cash the balance of his account of \$764 before he got a cab to the airport.

Denis Law also paid the balance of his account in cash.

Law told ASW: "I am disappointed because we did 98 per cent of all the shows we had to do."

"It was all for charity and a bit of a holiday I thought."

"I did not like the advertisements that were printed in papers

saying that I would play in that charity match."

"As most people know, I do NOT play soccer anywhere these days. I did turn up to the charity match but I did not play."

"I never at any stage said that I would play in it," he stressed.

Best and Law did say that they would return to Australia one day but if they did, they themselves would organise their tour and not a promoter.

Best revealed he would return in September or October this year to visit Brisbane and Perth after going through Hong Kong.

A Powerful Night

SATURDAY 10th February saw a great Soccer Night at North Sydney League Club.

George Best, Denis Law and comedian Joe Docherty put on a very entertaining show for the 600-strong crowd.

Organisers, Sportsforce International, surprised Denis with a 50th birthday cake for his forthcoming big day and the auditorium rang with 600 people singing.

The two relived their favourite goals. George's was direct

from a corner, and Denis' for Scotland on his debut when a clearance whacked him on the back of head and went over the keeper and into the net from 15 yards — a classic!

The guys signed autographs and posed for photographs and George thanked the audience for the best night of their whole tour.

When asked about an incident with Miss World, George's reply was "Which Miss World?"

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NOTICE TO UNDER 16 PLAYERS

Trials will commence on Monday 12th March, 1990 for the State Under 16 team.

They will be held at Valentine Park, Parklea on Monday 12th-19th March, at 6.30pm.

If requesting a trial, please contact:

The Director of Coaching on

☎ (02) 629 1800

(after the 12th February, 1990)

Melbourne challenge fizzles

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

MELBOURNE's challenge for top honours took a dive last week with all four clubs failing to win and only South Melbourne gaining a point when held at home by leaders Apia.

The lost point drops Hellas to fifth and they meet seventh-placed Preston in an all-important local derby at Olympic Park on Friday, kicking off at 8pm.

Hardly justifying their ambition as finalists, both Preston and Hellas have fallen on hard times recently with only one win in their last four games and South have lost their last three away from home.

Again Hellas have proved a little goal-shy being reduced to long-range efforts in the vital stages against Apia and coach Puskas must be eagerly awaiting the return of classy finisher Paul Trimboli.

Meanwhile, Preston appear to be aimlessly awaiting the return of Warren Spink and Oscar Crino before mounting a challenge and played poorly in the 2-0 loss to Melita.

Positioned on the razor's edge of the top five, neither side can afford defeat on Friday and a big crowd should be on hand to witness the battle.

South Melbourne have been relatively successful at Preston and again should win to remain in the hunt for honours.

Pacesetters Apia may be without clever full-back Milan Blagojevic, injured in the match with South Melbourne, when they host the fast-improving Sydney Croatia on Sunday.

In what should be the match of the round, Apia, despite leading, have won only once in their last four while Croatia have extended their unbeaten run to five under new coach Tony Vrzina.

Back-up

Croatia first must tackle St George in their round 15 postponed match tonight (Wednesday) and may find it tough to back up against

the leaders on Sunday.

However, Tony Vrzina's side have won their last four away and interestingly have won five out of the six matches the two sides have played on Apia's turf.

Relegation contenders Blacktown and Wollongong do battle at the Gabbie on Sunday in a game the Demons must win to follow on from their fine 3-0 win at Adelaide Hellas last week.

Tony Henderson represents Blacktown's third coach for the season and first up led the Demons to their first win in 12 matches last week while Geoff Gunning left no doubt he is an important part of Blacktown's chances of survival this season.

The Wolves relieved their problems for the moment with two results last week.

After disposing of leaders Apia 2-1, they fought out a thrilling 3-3 draw with Sydney Olympic and have laid to rest their recent tale of woe in front of goal.

With so much at stake the Demons will be expected to fight tooth and nail and while Wollongong played so well against Apia and Olympic a draw looks most likely at the Gabbie.

Mission

Adelaide Hellas travel to Sydney on Saturday with a difficult mission against defending champions Marconi.

With the 3-0 defeat at home to Blacktown, Hellas lost ground as all four clubs in the danger zone won last week and the gap at the bottom has widened.

Marconi got back to the winner's circle against Melbourne Croatia last week and more importantly Fred de Jong celebrated his return with the only goal.



STEVE SMITH: Preston will be hoping he regains scoring touch in the "derby" against South Melbourne this weekend — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

Without Zlatko Nastevski, de Jong has added pressure as the Marconi target man, the champs should win to drive another nail into the Hellas Adelaide coffin.

An important week lies ahead from the St

George club.

Along with the decision of coach Frank Arok's future with the club the Saints take on the Croatian duo starting tonight.

Sydney Croatia are the opponents tonight (Wednesday) and it will

take all of Arok's wizardry to stop the visitors from taking the points.

On Saturday St George back up to play Melbourne Croatia at Somers Street and again Arok will have his hands full with the classy Melbourne outfit still smarting from their defeat against Marconi last week.

The Saints despite their hard fought win against Sunshine last Friday have never beaten Melbourne Croatia and the home side should win particularly with St George facing their third game in a week.

Adelaide City stretched their unbeaten run to eight with their point at Sydney Croatia and on Sunday host Sunshine.

Charity

Georgie have slipped into relegation troubles with three successive defeats and can expect no charity from City who moved to second with last week's draw.

Sunshine have never beaten Adelaide City away from home and with Steve Maxwell finding his touch once again the home side should send George Cross further into trouble.

The most important game on Sunday is at St George Stadium where sixth placed Olympic play the dangerous Melita.

Following two defeats Melita downed Preston 2-0 last week, with Greg Brown once again the hero with both goals.

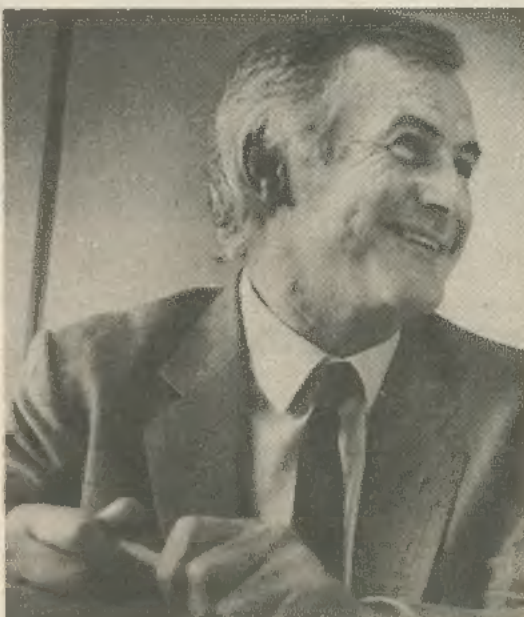
Brown has incredibly scored 10 of Melita's 13 goals this season and Olympic must shackle the Brown Bomber if they are to win on Sunday.

Back in Round 5 Olympic striker Kevin Hagan led the Melita defence on a merry dance as Olympic demolished the Eagles 5-1, but on Sunday Abbas Saad may well be the biggest thorn in Melita's side after getting back to form with a hat-trick last week.

Big sponsorship deal for St George

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

ST GEORGE will unveil tomorrow (Thursday) at a special press luncheon a major sponsorship deal rumoured to be worth well over \$300,000, which will provide the financial power and stability to see the Saints through the next three years.



FRANK AROK

The 'mystery' sponsor could prove to be a complete surprise to every one in attendance.

In addition to this major announcement, two additional sponsorships will be disclosed at the luncheon.

St George football manager-coach, Frank Arok, also the current national coach who is contracted to the ASF until July 31, is expected to make a long awaited announcement concerning his future with the Saints.

The Australian Soccer Federation, which will release advertisements throughout the world next week seeking applications for the position of a fulltime national coach (fulltime being a prerequisite), has invited Arok to also apply for this position.

St George general-manager Tony Balazsi over the last few months has made no secret about his feelings in doing everything humanly possible in his club's power to retain Arok's services.

Arok's expected announcement tomorrow could possibly see his relationship with the ASF come to an abrupt halt, some five months prior to the contractual expiry date.

Arok has had outstanding results with the Socceroos since taking them over in 1983 although he did not take them to two World Cup finals.

Since 1983 Arok has shown great loyalty to St George as well as Australia, having received no less than five offers to coach other clubs and national teams.

Three clubs from Greece have attempted to lure Arok from St George, and Israel on two separate occasions made strong financial offers to pull him away from Australia.

Tomorrow, that unyielding loyalty Arok has shown to St George since first linking up with them in 1969 is expected to continue.

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Youth League Representative Teams

Final trials are now taking place for K.D.S.A. U/14, U/15 and U/17 representative teams.

Trials games are arranged for the next three weeks.

If you are interested in playing youth league soccer and would like more information

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Brian Davies 449 9860 (AM)

636 7777 (W)

Super-cool Marconi

BY GREG BLAKE

THERE was something cool, calm and dreadfully calculating about the way Marconi coach Berti Mariani and his man-mountain goalkeeper Bob Catlin celebrated after Marconi's 1-0 win over Melbourne Croatia at Somers Street last Sunday.

As they smugly "high-fived" and then walked down the player's race beaming, it was as if they knew something the rest of us didn't.

There were no hysterical celebrations — the type you'd expect from a team which had come to Somers Street without a win since January 7, having had little match practice for nearly a month, having had a player sent off

(Jean-Paul de Marigny) just 32 minutes into the game and yet still taken the match points.

Croatia will never get a better chance to break its three-year long winless streak against the Sydneysiders than it did last Sunday.

But from the look of Mariani and Co. they were never going to let that happen and, ominously, it looks like the Marconi express is back on the rails and building up a head of steam for the finals.

The day started off well enough for the home side — only two minutes in Ivan Duzel drove a left footer off the crossbar and Gerry Adzic cracked the rebound centimetres over from close range.

But that was where the story ended.

Big Fred de Jong, a

powerhouse of a player, all but ended the home side's hopes with the game nine minutes old with the only goal of the match.

Running on to Peter Katholos' cross de Jong, despite desperate attempts to shove him off the ball, simply strode toward David Miller and angled the ball home with abject simplicity.

De Jong exemplified Marconi's performance — he took at least three heavy knocks without complaint, kept his cool in a crisis, threw his weight around when required, worked tirelessly at both ends and still managed to net the winning goal.

The other Marconi star was Robbie Wheatley — he didn't seem to raise a sweat. His performance was awe-

somely flawless, one of the best I have seen all season.

It needed to be as Marconi found itself a man down when de Marigny, somewhat harshly, was sent off late in the first half for a late but stinging challenge on George Hannah.

But Marconi simply lifted a gear and kept Croatia at arm's length.

The locals had their chances — Adzic, Branko Milosevic and Josip Biskic in midfield saw to that.

But Croatia's dreadfully static forward line — they had four men up front late in the game — played into Marconi's hands and left the visitors with little to do but close down with lethal and clinical efficiency.

Francis Awaritefe will rue the trio of chances he missed before half-time, the third in front



of an open goal when he only had to tap in Biskic's cross and he snapped the ball wide.

But in the end it came down to the professionalism of the back-to-back champions against a side full of individual stars which still lacks discipline and character.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller 5, Donnelly 6, Marth 5, Salemidis 5, Hannah 5, Duzel 5 (Kelle 61), Adzic 6, Milosevic 6, Biskic 6, Markovski 5, Awaritefe 4.

MARCONI: Catlin 7, van Egmond 7, De Marigny (sent off 32), Calderan 7, Wheatley 8, Gray 6, McCulloch 6, Okon 7, Katholos 6 (Colucci 78), De Jong 8, Lowe 7.

SCORERS: De Jong 9m for Marconi.

YELLOW CARDS: Duzel 58m, Biskic 73m and Donnelly 82m for Melbourne Croatia.

RED CARD: De Marigny 32m for Marconi.

REFEREE: D. Voutinakis 4. **CROWD:** 5470.

Quit National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Apia Leichhardt	17	9	5	3	26	15	23
Adelaide City	18	8	5	5	25	15	21
Marconi	15	7	6	2	28	14	20
Melbourne Croatia	17	8	4	5	32	20	20
South Melbourne	17	8	4	5	22	16	20
Sydney Olympic	16	7	4	5	25	15	18
Preston	17	7	3	7	19	20	17
Sydney Croatia	16	6	3	7	23	25	15
Melita Eagles	16	5	4	7	13	17	14
Sunshine GC	17	5	4	8	20	27	14
Wollongong City	17	5	4	8	17	28	14
St George	15	4	5	6	17	25	13

Adelaide Hellas	16	4	2	10	16	32	10
Blacktown City	16	3	3	10	19	39	9

Results

WOLLONGONG CITY 2 (P. Brodnik 2) APIA LEICHHARDT 1 (J. van Blerk) at Brandon Park. Crowd: 1121.

ST GEORGE 1 (A. Koczka) SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS at St George Stadium. Crowd: 349.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 1 (P. Tsolakis) APIA LEICHHARDT 1 (A. Postecoglou o.g.) at Middle Park. Crowd: 4000 (estimated).

WOLLONGONG CITY 3 (P. McFadden 2, R. Easthope) SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3 (A. Saad 3) at Brandon Park. Crowd: 2487.

MELITA EAGLES 2 (G. Brown 2) PRESTON 0 at Melita Stadium. Crowd: 2367.

MELBOURNE CROATIA 0 MARCONI 1 (F. de Jong) at Somers Street. Crowd: 5000 (estimated).

SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (R. Petkovic) ADELAIDE CITY 1 (A. Vidmar) at Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 5114.

ADELAIDE HELLAS 0 BLACKTOWN CITY 3 (G. Gunning 2, E. Ferguson) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 3512.

★ Deferred Round 15 fixture.

Crowds

ROUND 17: 22,829
AVERAGE PER GAME: 3,260
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 350,611

Top Scorers

Zlatko Nastevski	(Marconi)	11
Greg Brown	(Melita Eagles)	10
Rod Brown	(Apia Leichhardt)	10
Abbas Saad	(Olympic)	9
Zeljko Adzic	(Melbourne Croatia)	8
David Seal	(Sydney Croatia)	8
Steve Smith	(Preston)	8

Team of Round 14

B. MacIaren (Sth Melb)
D. Skeen (Wollongong)
D. Stewart (Apia)
S. Calderan (Marconi)
R. Wheatley (Marconi)
V. Kupresak (Syd Croatia)
P. McFadden (Wollongong)
H. Gimenez (Melita)
A. Saad (Olympic)
F. de Jong (Marconi)
G. Brown (Melita)

Player of Round

Robbie Wheatley (Marconi)

Magnificent Melita!

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

TWO spectacular Greg Brown goals engineered Melita Eagles' upset, yet thoroughly deserved, 2-0 victory over the visiting Preston at Melita Stadium last Sunday.

The two goals lifted Brown to unbelievable heroic levels in the eyes of the wildly excited Melita fans who never stopped chanting their support, backed by the cacophonous sounds of drums and trumpets in the grandstand.

A pleased Melita coach, Raul Blanco, reflected after the match: "Justice at last has been done. We have gone unrewarded in many games in the past, but I have always told my

boys that if we keep playing well we must sooner or later collect the points."

Goal-hero Brown, after taking a well-deserved shower, quietly stated: "Yes, I was pleased with my two goals, especially after I was denied a perfectly good goal in our last match against them down in Melbourne which robbed us of a draw. But we have to keep going and take points to lift us up the ladder."

Ironically, it was Preston that launched the first serious assault as early as in the ninth minute through striker Robert Markovac. But Markovac's angled drive from 10 metres on the right, was

quickly turned around the post for a corner by Melita's switched-on goalkeeper Alex McPherson.

From then on it was all Melita who sustained unyielding pressure on Preston, thrust upon them by the excellent non-stop industrious assaults from the Melita midfield quartet of Lenny Vial, Craig Mason, Hugo Gimenez and Aytec Genc.

Gimenez was magnificent and in charge of directing traffic, which soon attracted some punishing Preston tackles.

Both Melita full-backs, Craig Dickinson and Andy Callanan, dug in and defiantly blocked any intruders that ventured down their flank.

Brown brought instant relief to Melita's cardiac-suffering supporters in the 17th minute by meeting a fine cross slung in from the left flank by Genc. From a very tight spot and an acute angle, Brown buried his shot deep into Preston's net.

Brown finished Preston off in the 51st minute with an even better goal. Raiding 25 metres down the left flank, he veered infield to reach the byline.

From this acute, (if not impossible) angle, Brown crashed his "van Basten-styled" shot into the far corner of Preston's net, aided by the slight touch of goalkeeper's Phil Traianedes' outstretched right glove.

Seconds before full-time, Melita in fact scored a third goal but referee Bill Monteverde had to reverse his decision and cancel it after consulting his linesman.



Big pressure for goalie Phil Traianedes as Melita swarm all over the Preston goalmouth — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

MELITA EAGLES: McPherson 6, Dickinson 7, Barrios 7, (Williams 66m), Gonzalez 7, Callanan 7, Vial 7, Mason 7, Gimenez 8, Genc 7, Soper 6, (Faice 79m), Brown 8.

PRESTON: Traianedes 5, Runje 5, Tasevski 5, Jackson

6, Jolevski 7, Sifkas 6, Petrov 5, Temcev 5, (Matasas 57m), Zinni 5, Smith 6, R. Markovac 5, (J. Markovac 66m).

SCORER: G. Brown 17m and 51m for Melita Eagles.

YELLOW CARDS: Brown 44, Dickinson 47m, Soper 74m for Melita; Runje 15m, Tasevski 39m for Preston.

REFEREE: B. Monteverde 8.

CROWD: 2367.



GEORGE JOLEVSKI, Preston's best player at Melita Stadium last Sunday.

STATE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1

ROUND ROBIN

FIRST ROUND

Saturday, February 24

Group A

BHP Austral v Polonia — Austral Park 4pm
Canterbury Marrickville v North Shore Utd — Knight Park 2.30pm
Avala v Warringah Freshwater — Knight Park 4.30pm

Sunday, February 25

Group B

Sutherland Shire v Inter Monaro — J.J. Kelly Park, Wollongong 2.30pm
Wollongong Macedonia v Sydney Macedonia — J.J. Kelly Park, Wollongong 4.30pm

— Canberra Croatia bye

NSL CUP

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

MARCONI v WOLLONGONG CITY

Marconi Stadium — 7.30pm



'Hendo' wins first-up

BY ALAN CLARK

NEW Blacktown coach Tony Henderson promises a breath of fresh air in the Demons' coaching.

And in a thrilling first-up 3-0 win against Adelaide Hellas at Hindmarsh on Sunday, players responded by breathing new life into the fight from relegation.

Former Socceroo Henderson knows he'll need plenty more of the effort Blacktown showed on Sunday.

But he has given them freer rein to get on with the job.

"Too many coaches don't let players express themselves", said Henderson.

"I want them to go out there and play and enjoy doing it."

"This could be a stepping stone. We were regarded as easy beats — not now."

Dejected coach Brian Garvey summed up Hellas' real, gut-wrenching relegation worry.

"If we cannot beat Blacktown at home," said Garvey, "perhaps we don't deserve to stay in the NSL."

Hellas produced its worst home performance of the season.

The home side, which had performed a novel warm-up before the game, failed to get any cohesion into its play in the first-half when the back four, with Martin Doak reinstated, looked solid and Richard Miranda worked like a beaver to get things moving.

But Blacktown keeper Bill Londos rarely was tested.

Big Doak looked to have one net-bound in 27 minutes but Paul Carter popped up to clear.

Hellas fans were not happy but, surely, things would improve

after the interval.

How wrong could you be?

Former Socceroo Zarko Odzakovic, in a new free-roving striking role, swung over a corner from the right in 66 minutes.

Somehow the ball arrived low to previously unsighted former Rangers striker Eric Ferguson and he headed home.

Hellas then threw caution to the wind but

had good chances to Doak and Raymond Blair go begging before Geoff Gunning sent home faces a deeper shade of red with two late, late goals.

"The first goal was crucial," said Garvey. "I don't know how the ball was allowed to get to him."

"Again we conceded goals and did not take advantage of the chances we had."

HELLAS: Tsoleridis 7, Hiem 7, Mills 7, Doak 6, Slager 6, Miranda 6, Watkins 5, (Capasso 71), Kidd 6, Wright 5, Blair 5, Vatsilas 5 (Frantzis 76m).

BLACKTOWN: Londos 6, Carter 6, Yankos 5, Reynolds 6, Maier 6, Bennett 7, Gibson 6, Ferguson 5, Odzakovic 6, Arambasic (Northam 39m 6), Gunning 7.

SCORERS: Ferguson 66m, Gunning 88m and 94m for Blacktown.

YELLOW CARDS: Gunning 28m and Yankos 75m for Blacktown; Wright 80m for Hellas.

REFEREE: P. Spiers 7.
CROWD: 3512.



Despite the appeal by the Preston players, Greg Brown's second goal for Melita Eagles stood last Sunday — HECTOR CARRASCO pic.

MacLaren earns draw for South Melbourne

BY VLADO VLAHOVIC

SOUTH Melbourne goalkeeper Bruce MacLaren performed heroics to keep his side's unbeaten home record intact after a 1-1 draw with league leader, Apia Leichhardt at Middle Park last Saturday.

Had it not been for a host of saves, two of them from point-blank range, Apia would have walked away with both points for the first time against South in Melbourne.

The Sydneysiders dominated proceedings in the second half after its midfielders Brian Ellem and Jason van Blerk asserted their superiority and they were well backed up by defenders Milan Blagojevic, Bruce Halliday and Darren Stewart.

However, the first half was not one-sided

as both teams had their chances. But it was South who had the early running, diminutive dynamo Peter Tsolakis opening the scoring in the 14th minute.

Tsolakis made amends for an earlier miss after receiving a delightful pass from big Kimon Taliadoros and with a cracking shot Apia 'keeper Tony Pezzano was well beaten.

Apia's key striker Rod Brown and defender Halliday both had opportunities to put the ball in but MacLaren seemed as tall as 'the great wall of China' for the time being.

South came desperately close to increasing its lead with another Tsolakis-Taliadoros combination just before half time, but this time Taliadoros was just wide of target.

Once Apia began to dominate, the equaliser was not too far away

and, in fact, it came in the 57th minute.

However, it was South defender Angie Postecoglou who scored for Apia.

It was a powerful, low drive from striker Peter Murray that forced Postecoglou into error, after a furious Apia attack.

Apia had two further excellent chances via a Murray header and a van Blerk blast but Hellas hung on grimly for a draw.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: MacLaren 8, Healy 6, Postecoglou 6, Durakovic 6, Blair 5, Wade 7, Palatides 6, (Mori 72m), Tsolakis 7, Mitchell 6, Taliadoros 7, (Michalakopoulos) Wright 7.

APIA LEICHHARDT: Pezzano 7, Halliday 7, Stewart 7, (M. Brown 80m), Blagojevic 6, van Blerk 7, Jennings 6, Clinch 6, Ellem 7, Bundalo 6, Brown 6, Murray 6 (McQuarrie 77m).

SCORERS: Tsolakis 14m for South Melbourne; Postecoglou (own goal) 57m for Apia.

REFEREE: J. Santa Isabel 6.
CROWD: 4000 (estimated).



Saints struggle against Sunshine

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

ST GEORGE struggled to a 1-0 win over the visiting Sunshine George Cross in a four match at St George Stadium last Friday in front of a paltry crowd of 349 spectators.

It was left to the St George skipper and sweeper, Andy Koczka, to break the deadlock just two minutes before halftime.

With some good lead-up work from rugged midfielder Craig Moffitt, Koczka broke clear and nailed the target from very close range.

Both teams showed sparse imagination or enterprise and offered little in the way of entertainment.

Ernie Tapai, Sunshine's dynamic little midfielder, tried in vain to get his side moving with some intelligent service and crosses but

found himself indeed involved in an exercise in futility.

On one occasion, seconds before half-time, Tapai slung a perfect cross from the left flank that zeroed in on striker Paul Foster positioned right in front of goal but Saints' agile goalkeeper, John Filan, made a spectacular save from Foster's 15-metre effort.

Keogh in the second half pulled off two saves, denying striker Tony Krslovic and Koczka further goals.

After the match, a solemn Frank Arok reflected: "After not having played for two weeks we were understandably a little rusty and our players were over-cautious and unduly nervous."

"We are capable of much better soccer when we are fully fit. We just didn't get enough people into their box tonight."

Meanwhile, Sunshine's care-taker coach, Ian Greener, filling in for Ernie Merrick who is in Scotland with his sick father, told ASW his team had been frustrated.

"It wasn't a good match to watch obviously and as the game progressed we became frustrated," he said.

"There were some rough tackles out there and we finished the match with just seven fit players."

ST GEORGE: Filan 7, Green 5, Dean 5, O'Shea 5, Koczka 6, Harper 5, Moffitt 6, Knight 5, Bingley 5, Krslovic 5, Ilic 5 (Kakakios 72m).

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS: Keogh 7, Fabrizio 5, Katsakidis 5, Parton 5, Roodhouse 5, Campbell 5, (Attard 33m), Kindtner 5, Tapai 6, Clarkson 5, (Muscat 55m), Foster 5, Hasler 5.

SCORER: A. Koczka 43m for St George.

YELLOW CARDS: Moffitt 75m for St George; Keogh 53m, Tapai 77m for Sunshine George Cross.

REFEREE: G. Power 9.
CROWD: 349.

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Resurgent Sydney Croatia show they mean business

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

EARLY season relegation candidates Sydney Croatia continued their revival with an entertaining 1-1 draw against highly fancied Adelaide City at the Croatian Sports Centre on Sunday night and did more than enough in the process to suggest that a place in the championship play-offs remains a distinct possibility.

Midfielder Ivan Petkovic got the game off to a sensational start after just two minutes, giving Croatia the lead following an incisive Mark Jones through ball to Manis Lamond.

The speedy winger looked set to have a shot himself after turning defender Milan Ivanovic but instead he laid the ball on a platter for Petkovic to slam home from the edge of the area.

Before the visitors and home fans fully realised what was happening, young David Seal should have increased the lead two minutes later with a snap header from five metres which keeper Robert Zabica did well to get down to.

Adelaide City soon settled down, however,

relying on their cultured and always intelligent brand of football to stamp their authority on an intriguing game.

Their patient, constructive build-ups, combined with their lightning-fast breaks, began to unsettle Croatia and when they did level the score in the 17th minute it came as no surprise even though the goal itself could have easily been prevented.

The classy Ivanovic was heavily involved in the move, first breaking up a Croatia raid on the edge of his own area then switching the point of attack by feeding Tony Vidmar in loads of space wide on the left.

To everyone's amazement, Vidmar's far post cross was completely misjudged by keeper Tony Franken, allowing Aurelio Vidmar to climb high and nod in the equaliser.

For the remainder of the first half City continued to dominate proceedings with Steve Maxwell wasting a golden chance of putting his side in front when he beat the offside trap in the 21st minute and went around Franken but took the ball much too wide.

Although Croatia was under intense pressure,



Wollongong's Randell Easthorpe clashes with Sydney Olympic goalkeeper Clint Gosling at Brandon Park last Sunday — Photo courtesy ILLAWARRA MERCURY.

they managed to combat City's cultured football with a more direct style, often completely bypassing their midfield with long balls straight to Lamond on the left.

The winger's vicious low drive after 25 minutes failed to beat the alert Zabica and his intelligent pass to Petkovic five minutes later was struck wide of the post with an overly hurried shot.

While neither side managed to produce a winner in the second half, the game developed into an absorbing battle of wits which kept the fans on the edge of their seats.

Both teams provided the type of soccer which gives fans plenty of value for their money.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken 6, Savor 6, Grbevski 6, Hunter 6, Jones 7, Kupresak 7, Ricoy 6, Petkovic 5 (Gojevic 88m), Arnold 6, Seal 5, Lamond 6.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica 6, Shillabeer 6, T. Vidmar 6 (Flounders 78m), Ivanovic 7, Tobin 6, Melita 6, Santrac 6, Veart 5 (Vrljani 83m), Mullen 5, Maxwell 6, A. Vidmar 6.

SCORERS: I. Petkovic 2m for Croatia; A. Vidmar 17m for Adelaide City.

YELLOW CARDS: Melita 77m for Adelaide City; Jones 85m for Croatia.

REFEREE: J. Fraser 6.

ATTENDANCE: 5114.

WOLLONGONG City and Sydney Olympic shared the points at Brandon Park in an entertaining 3-3 draw last Sunday.

This game had everything — six goals, one hat-trick, and five yellow cards.

Abbas Saad was the hero for Olympic, scoring a hat-trick, two in the first half and one in the second half.

But it was Wollongong who drew first blood, scoring after the game was only six minutes old when Paul McFadden's ground shot in front of the goalkeeper skidded into the net.

Just before that Olympic had a chance from a Saad corner on the left, but Wollongong goalie George Bouhoutsos made a point-blank save from Scott Ollerenshaw.

Both teams went on the attack from the start, and the game was played at a very hectic pace.

It took Olympic 37 minutes to pull level when Saad scored his first goal with a header which dipped underneath the bar from a good cross from David Barrett after Wollongong gave the ball away in their own half.

With this very fast pace another goal had to come and it came in the 44th minute when Wollongong was ball-watching and let Saad in for his second goal when he headed in from close range, after another perfect cross from the right.

The second half provided even more entertaining soccer than the first and action was plentiful.

Danny Crainie sent in a free kick from the left which found Pat Brodnik on the far post who



ROBERT IRONSIDE: came on only in the 74th minute as Olympic and the Wolves drew 3-3 — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

sent the ball across the goal and McFadden was on hand to slide the ball into the net in the 57th minute.

Crainie was beginning to make some excellent runs on the left flank, and in the 61st minute one of these crosses found the ever-elusive Brodnik, who turned and shot. The goalkeeper blocked his effort, but Randell Easthorpe was on hand to slot the ball over the goalline.

In the 71st minute Saad completed his hat-trick. He received the ball in midfield, beat two defenders with a burst of speed chipped the ball over the advancing goalkeeper.

At the end of the day both teams deserved a point as they provided a feast of entertaining soccer.

WOLLONGONG: Bouhoutsos 6, Skeen 7, Brodnik 7, Ratcliffe 7, Vilestra 6, Allport 6 (O'Neill 80m), McFadden 8, Hristovski 7, Easthorpe 6, Petkovic 6 (Roberts), Crainie 7.

OLYMPIC: Gosling 8, Barrett 7, Phillips 6, Hooker 7, Plataniotis 6, Hristodoulou 7, Lee 6 (Ironside 74m), Perinovic 6, Saad 8, Bernal 7, Ollerenshaw 7.

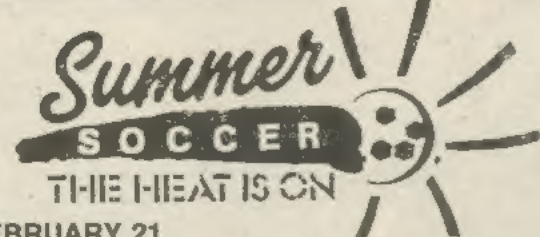
SCORERS: McFadden 6m and 57m, Easthorpe 61m for Wollongong; Saad 37, 44, and 71m for Olympic.

YELLOW CARDS: Crainie 49m, Ratcliffe 65m, Easthorpe 62m for Wollongong; Hooker 72m, Perinovic 75m for Olympic.

REFEREE: Richard Lorenc 7.

CROWD: 2487.

Weekend fixtures



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

ST GEORGE v SYDNEY CROATIA

St George Stadium 7.30pm

(Deferred match from Round 15)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

PRESTON v SOUTH MELBOURNE

Olympic Park 8pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

MELBOURNE CROATIA v ST GEORGE

Somers Street 6pm

MARCONI v ADELAIDE HELLAS

Marconi Stadium 7pm

BLACKTOWN v WOLLONGONG CITY

Gabbie Stadium 7pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

APIA LEICHHARDT v SYDNEY CROATIA

Lambert Park 6pm

ADELAIDE CITY v SUNSHINE

Hindmarsh Stadium 8pm

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v MELITA EAGLES

St George Stadium 7pm

LEVEL 2 COACHING COURSE

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24th & 25th February, 1990

3rd, 4th, 10th & 11th March, 1990

Cost: \$77.00

The course is held over 6 days from 8.30am to 4.30pm.

To enrol phone 629 1800 between the hours of 9am and 5pm.

Entries close on the 16th February, 1990.

Only 16 applicants accepted.

SOCCER POOLS



THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST WEEK 239 SAT 24 FEBRUARY

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	ASTON VILLA	WIMBLEDON	1
	CRYSTAL P.	SHEFF. WED.	2
	MAN. CITY	CHARLTON	3
	MILLWALL	Q.P.R.	4
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	BARNLEY	HULL	5
	BOURNEMOUTH	BRADFORD C.	6
	LEEDS	WEST BROM.	7
	LEICESTER	STOKE	8
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	OXFORD UTD.	MIDDLESBRO	9
	PORT VALE	PLYMOUTH	10
	SHEFF. UTD.	NEWCASTLE	11
	WOLVES	WATFORD	12
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	BOLTON	BIRMINGHAM	13
	BRISTOL C.	READING	14
	CREWE	BURY	15
	MANSFIELD	LEYTON O.	16
H.F.S. LEAGUE PREMIER DIV.	NOTTS C.	HUDDERSFIELD	17
	PRESTON	CARDIFF	18
	SHREWSBURY	ROTHERHAM	19
	SWANSEA	BRISTOL R.	20
H.F.S. LEAGUE PREMIER DIV.	WALSALL	CHESTER	21
	WIGAN A.	FULHAM	22
	ALDERSHOT	GRIMSBY	23
	BURNLEY	LINCOLN	24
H.F.S. LEAGUE PREMIER DIV.	CARLISLE	ROCHDALE	25
	HARTLEPOOL	CHESTERFIELD	26
	MAIDSTONE	HALIFAX	27
	SCUNTHORPE	STOCKPORT	28
H.F.S. LEAGUE PREMIER DIV.	TORQUAY	PETERBORO	29
	WREXHAM	EXETER	30
	YORK	SCARBORO	31
	FLEETWOOD	GOOLE	32
H.F.S. LEAGUE PREMIER DIV.	FRICKLEY A.	MORECAMBE	33
	GAINSBORO	MOSSLEY	34
	HORWICH	CAERNARFON	35
	ALVECHURCH	DORCHESTER	36
H.F.S. LEAGUE PREMIER DIV.	ATHERSTONE	CAMBRIDGE C.	37
	CRAWLEY	MOOR GREEN	38
H.F.S. LEAGUE PREMIER DIV.	BARRY TOWN	DUDLEY	39
	BILSTON	REDDITCH	40
	BRIDGNORTH	WARWICK	41
	GRANTHAM	LEICESTER U.	42
H.F.S. LEAGUE PREMIER DIV.	HALESOWEN	BEDWORTH	43
	KINGS LYNN	SANDWELL B.	44
	RUSHDEN	TAMWORTH	45
	STOURBRIDGE	STROUD	46
H.F.S. LEAGUE PREMIER DIV.	WILLENHALL	SPALDING	47
	BARKING	BOGNOR R.	48
	DULWICH	HAYES	49
	MARLOW	GRAYS	50
H.F.S. LEAGUE PREMIER DIV.	CROYDON	HITCHIN	51
	DORKING	UXBRIDGE	52
	HAMPTON	WHYTELEAFE	53
	HARLOW	CHESHAM UTD.	54
H.F.S. LEAGUE PREMIER DIV.	LEATHERHEAD	KINGSBURY	55

* BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
† VAUXHALL LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

Jackpot

This week
est. \$300,000

RESULTS OF WEEK 238 SAT 17 FEBRUARY, 1990

Total Prize Pool is \$238,241.04
Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order): 3, 7, 17, 23, 29, 38.
Supplementary Number: 10

Division 1:
The Prize Pool is \$154,793.24
No winner, Jackpot week 239
(est. \$300,000 next week)

Division 2:
The Prize Pool is \$4,764.80
4 provisional winners of \$1,191.20ea

Division 3:
The Prize Pool is \$14,296.40
103 winners of \$138.80ea

Division 4:
The Prize Pool is \$35,723.80
3,002 winners of \$11.90ea

Division 5:
The Prize Pool is \$28,662.50
4,376 winners of \$6.55ea

MATCH RESULTS

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	CRYSTAL P.	ROCHDALE	1	1-0
	WEST BROM.	ASTON VILLA	2	0-2
	NOTTINGHAM F.	CHELSEA	3	1-1
	BLACKBURN	PORT VALE	4	1-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	BRADFORD C.	OXFORD UTD.	5	1-2
	HULL	PORTSMOUTH	6	1-2
	IPSWICH	LEEDS	7	2-2
	STOKE	WOLVES	8	2-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	BURY	TRANMERE	9	1-2
	CARDIFF	CREWE	10	0-0
	CHESTER	SHREWSBURY	11	1-0
	FULHAM	NOTTS C.	12	3-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	HUDDERSFIELD	MANSFIELD	13	1-0
	NORTHAMPTON	BOLTON	14	0-2
	CHESTERFIELD	WREXHAM	15	3-0
	EXETER	MAIDSTONE	16	2-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	GILLINGHAM	YORK	17	0-0
	GRIMSBY	BURNLEY	18	4-2
	HALIFAX	ALDERSHOT	19	4-1
	HEREFORD	HARTLEPOOL	20	4-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 6	LINCOLN	COLCHESTER	21	2-1
	PETERBORO	CARLISLE	22	3-0
	SCARBORO	TORQUAY	23	0-0
	ASHFORD	WORCESTER	24	1-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 7	ATHERSTONE	RUGBY	25	0-2
	BROMSGROVE	ALVECHURCH	26	2-1
	BURTON A.	WEYMOUTH	27	1-0
	CAMBRIDGE C.	WEALDSTONE	28	3-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 8	DARTFORD	DOVER	29	2-2
	GLOUCESTER	CHELMSFORD	30	2-0
	GOSPORT	CORBY	31	0-1
	GRAVESEND	BATH	32	0-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 9	MOOR GREEN	DORCHESTER	33	3-0
	WATERLOO	CRAWLEY	34	0-2
	AYLESBURY	SLOUGH	35	3-1
	BISHOPS S.	DULWICH	36	1-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 10	BOGNOR R.	LEYTON W'TE	37	0-1
	BROMLEY	ST. ALBANS	38	1-1

* Winning match numbers and supplementary number.

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 00555 0787 Australia Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520;
Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521;
Perth (09) 11520.

Results are available from 8pm. Sundays, dividends after 5pm
Mondays.

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 10/2/90 — WEEK 237

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED										NO. OF WEEKS SINCE EACH NUMBER OCCURRED									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
25	28	38	14	28	44	33	43			6	6	0	12	3	1	0	2		
42	53	46	48	45	46	49	42			26	0	3	2	4	5	7	11		
17	18	19	25	2	23	23	24			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
45	43	33	50	44	48	50	46			0	7	30	2	5	2	0	5		
25	26	27	29	30	31	32	33			25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32		
45	53	52	60	53	67	49	51			14	9	1	28	3	20	6	1	3	
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40			33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		
49	63	54	64	50	50					33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40		

Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools

FA CUP, Rd5: Bristol City 0
Cambridge 0, Crystal Palace 1
Rochdale 0, Liverpool 3
Southampton 0, Oldham 2
Everton 2, West Bromwich 0
Aston Villa 2.
DIV 1: Coventry 3, Millwall 1,
Nottingham Forest 1, Chelsea 1,
Sheffield Wednesday 1, Arsenal 0.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	26	14	8	4	50	26	50
Aston Villa	24	13	4	5	41	21	49
Arsenal	24	13	3	8	38	25	42
Notts Fst	25	11	7	7	38	25	40
Tottenham	25	11	6	8	38	31	39
Everton	25	11	5	9	34	31	38
Coventry	25	11	4	10	24	32	37
Chelsea	26	9	9	8	41	39	36
Derby	24	10	5	9	31	21	35
Southamp	24	9	8	7	46	41	35
Norwich	25	9	8	8	28	27	35
Wimbledon	25	7	11	7	28	28	32
Q.P.R.	24	7	9	8	26	28	30
Sheff Wed	27	7	8	12	22	36	29
Cryst Pal	25	8	5	12	30	50	29
Man Utd	25	7	7	11	30	35	28
Man City	25	7	7	11	27	39	28
Luton	24	5	10	9	27	34	25
Millwall	26	5	9	12	32	45	24
Charlton	24	3	7	14	19	36	18

DIV 2: Blackburn 1, Port Vale 0,
Bradford 1, Oxford 2, Brighton 0,
Leicester 0, Hull 1, Portsmouth 2,
Ipswich 2, Leeds 2, Stoke 2,
Wolverhampton 0, Watford 1,
Sunderland 1.

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	30	17	8	5	54	34	59
Sheff Utd	29	15	10	4	44	30	55
Swindon	29	14	7	8	53	40	49
Oldham	29	12	11	6	42	34	47
Blackburn	30	11	13	6	53	44	46
Wolves	30	12	9	9	46	38	45
Sunderland	30	11	12	7	47	44	45
Newcastle	28	11	10	7	49	38	43
Ipswich	28	11	9	8	41	40	42
Port Vale	30	10	11	9	40	35	41
Oxford	29	11	7	11	40	39	40
West Ham	28	10	8	10	41	35	38
Bournemouth	29	10	8	11	46	48	38
Watford	29	9	8	12	36	37	35
Portsmouth	30	8	11	11	40	45	35
Leicester	29	9	8	12	39	47	35
WBA	29	8	10	11	47	48	34
Middlesbrough	29	9	7	13	36	42	34
Brighton	29	9	5	15	35	43	32
Plymouth	28	8	7	13	38	42	31
Hull	29	6	12	11	35	44	30
Bradford	30	6	12	12	32	43	30
Barnsley	29	7	8	14	29	51	29
Stoke	30	5	11	14	25	47	26

DIV 3: Birmingham 0, Wigan 0,
Bury 1, Tranmere 2, Cardiff 0,
Crewe 0, Chester 1, Shrewsbury 0,
Fulham 5, Notts County 2,
Huddersfield 0, Mansfield 0,
Northampton 0, Bolton 2, Reading 6,
Preston 0, Rotherham 3,
Swansea 2.

DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brist City	26	16	5	5	35	20	53
Notts City	28	14	8	6	41	31	50
Tranmere	29	14	6	9	53	32	48
Huddersfield	27	13	9	5	38	30	48
Rotherham	29	13	8	8	54	35	47
Brist Rov	26	12	10	4	34	20	46
Bolton	27	12	10	5	41	29	46
Bury	30	11	8	11	42	37	41
Chester	31	9	11	11	29	37	38
Birmingham	28	10	7	11	31	35	37
Shrewsbury	28	9	9	10	37	36	36
Brentford	27	11	3	13	41	42	36
Ley Orient	28	10	5	13	37	40	35
Fulham	29	8	10	11	37	41	34
Swansea	28	9	7	12	29	42	34
Crewe	28	7	12	9	30	31	33
Wigan	28	7	12	9	27	33	33
Reading	26	7	11	8	34	34	32
Northampton	24	8	7	9	30	33	31
Mansfield	28	9	4	15	29	39	31
Preston	29	8	5	16	37	57	29
Cardiff	26	6	10	10	30	38	28

Blackpool 27 6 9 12 25 34 27
Walsall 25 5 8 12 21 36 23

DIV 4: Chesterfield 3, Wrexham 0,
Exeter 2, Maidstone 0, Gillingham 0,
York 0, Grimsby 4, Burnley 2,
Halifax 4, Aldershot 1,
Hereford 4, Hartlepool 1, Lincoln 2,
Colchester 1, Peterborough 3,
Carlisle 0, Scarborough 0, Torquay 0,
Southend 0, Scunthorpe 0, Stockport 3,
Doncaster 1.

DIVISION FOUR

Carlisle	29	15	7	7	41	31	52
Stockport	31	15	6	10	49	41	51
Exeter	27	16	2	9	48	31	50
Southend	30	14	7	9	41	31	49
Lincoln	29	13	8	8	29	28	47
Chesterfield	27	13	7	7	39	27	46
Maidstone	29	14	4	11	44	38	46
York	30	12	10	8	33	31	46
Gillingham	28	12	8	8	33	27	44
Grimsby	29	11	10	8	43	34	43
Peterboro	29	9	14	6	37	30	41
Cambridge	26	11	6	9	43	40	39
Scunthorpe	29	9	11	9	39	36	38
Rochdale	28	11	5	12	29	28	38
Burnley	26	10	7	9	28	28	37
Aldershot	28	9	9	10	35	41	38
Torquay	27	9	8	10	32	37	35
Halifax	29	8	9	12	40	39	33
Doncaster	30	9	6	15	34	38	33
Scarboro	30	9	6	15	35	46	33
Hereford	27	8	8	11	34	36	32
Hartlepool	30	7	6	17	41	67	27
Wrexham	28	4	9	16	26	44	21

Last week's NSL Cup

SYDNEY CROATIA 3
ST GEORGE 0

ADELAIDE CITY 3
ADELAIDE HELLAS 0

SOUTH MELBOURNE 4
SUNSHINE GC 2

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 4
MELITA EAGLES 1

TWO badly depleted sides made somewhat of a mockery of this first round NSL Cup clash in which Sydney Croatia had little difficulty defeating St George 3-0 at Edensor Park on Wednesday night.

Croatia never looked in danger after new signing David Batten finished off a good move involving Steve Gojevic and Manis Lamond after just six minutes to score his first goal for the club on his senior team debut.

The longer the game went the more it was becoming a case of no contest as the young Saints made Croatia look like a champion team allowing them the freedom of the park to make space in which to create their smooth, flowing football.



PEDRO RICOY

Mike Grbevski's determined run on the left after 28 minutes got him behind a non-existent Saints defence to float over a cross for Pedro Ricoy to take his time and slam into the roof of the net to increase the lead.

The commitment and midfield superiority shown by Croatia was tearing St George apart and it came as no surprise when Grbevski again went through on a solo run two minutes before the break and drove his shot past Filan for a match winning 3-0 half-time lead.

It must have been quite galling for Arok to see all three Croatia goals put away by players who had started their NSL careers with the Saints.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Frank-en (Kalac 45m), Savor, Grbevski, Hunter (Babic 45m), Rumora, Ricoy, Kupresak, Retkovic, Gojevic, Batten, Lamond.

ST GEORGE: Filan, Spanoudakis, Morakeas, Dean (Hickman 45), Moffitt, Milicevic, Kakakios, Poric, Bingley (Chasikos 60m), Jeremic, McGregor.

Scorers: Batten 6m, Ricoy 28m, Grbevski 43m for Croatia.

Yellow cards: Rumora 14m for Croatia.
Referee: R. Lorenc.
Crowd: 1523.

— FRANK SCICLUNA

THE Adelaide City juggernaut rolled over old rivals Hellas for a deserved 3-0 first round NSL Cup win in a fiery derby at Hindmarsh.



STEVE MAXWELL

Hellas sweeper and club stalwart Nick Mousoulis was sent off just four minutes before half-time in a match that rarely produced skill but did enough to enflame passions of the 10,000 fans.

Despite Joe Mullen hitting the crossbar and Steve Maxwell having a 'goal' disallowed, Hellas held firm until 39 minutes when Maxwell, in the middle of a purple patch of form, broke the deadlock.

Greg Mills, rather severely, was adjudged to have fouled Carl Veart out on the right. Hellas made a poor job of clearing the resultant freekick and Maxie pounced to volley home.

Hellas just held the edge on play but they could get little change out of magnificent Milan Ivanovic and ice-man Alex Tobin.

Then when all were settling for a 1-0 scoreline, City twice pounced in the dying minutes.

A Maxwell break-away split the Hellas defence and he laid off for Melta to round goalie Tsozeridis and net in 88 minutes.

Just on time, Maxwell passed on to substitute Charley Villani and he crossed for Carl Veat to steady and steer home from close range.

ADELAIDE CITY: Martinello, Shillabeer, (Flounders 71m), T. Vidmar, Ivanovic, Tobin, Melta, Santrac, Veart, Mullen, (Villani 61), Maxwell, A. Vidmar.

HELLAS: Tsozeridis, Hiern, Mills, Mousoulis, Slager, Miranda, Watkins, Kidd, Wright, Blair, Stamtelopoulos (Vatsilas 45m).

Scorers: Maxwell 39m, Melta 88m, Veart 90m for City.

Red card: Mousoulis (41m for Hellas).
Yellow cards: A. Vidmar 8m for City, Mullen 53m for City and Kidd 53m for Hellas.
Referee: Jim Rossis.
Crowd: 10,000.

— ALAN CLARK

SOUTH Melbourne Hellas regained its goalscoring touch in fine style as it came from behind to defeat Sunshine George Cross 4-2 in



last Wednesday night's first round QNSL Cup tie at Olympic Park.

George Cross took the lead after just 15 minutes when John Campbell put away Gary Hasler's cut back.

But South Melbourne got on terms 12 minutes later as an Angie Postecoglou 'special' dipped and swerved its way past Sean Keogh from 20 metres.

Hellas powered away after half-time with Mike Petersen starting proceedings as he hit a shot just inside the post after receiving a pass from Danny Wright.

Two minutes later Paul Wade headed home a Postecoglou freekick to make it 3-1 and give Souths what seemed an unbeatable lead.

Sunshine fought back tenaciously and substitute Paul Foster made it 3-2 before Hellas wrapped up a second round berth with a Kimon Taliadoros goal 12 minutes from full-time.

Late in the game Sunshine seemed unlucky to be denied a penalty when Mehmet Durakovic appeared to handle the ball in his own area but Hellas clearly controlled the game and deserved its impressive win.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: MacLaren, Postecoglou, Healy, Blair, Durakovic, Peterson, Wade, Palatsides, Wright (Mori 72), Taliadoros, Michalakopoulos.

SUNSHINE GC: Keogh, Fabrizio, Roodhouse, Parton, Waddell, Katsakidis, Kindtner, Tapai, Hasler, Clarkson (P. Foster 65), Campbell.

Referee: D. Voutsinis.
Crowd: 1662.

— GREG BLAKE

SYDNEY OLYMPIC ran riot to send Melita Eagles crashing out of the NSL Cup with a 4-1 win at St George Stadium last Wednesday night.

Coach Mick Hickman made no less than seven changes by promoting several teenagers.

But before Olympic fans start believing that their new teenagers are of Aston Villa quality, let it be noted that Sydney Olympic's 'best' player on the night was Melita's 17 year-old goalkeeper, Tony Marco.

Marco's performance for Melita was so feeble that he was directly responsible for Olympic's first three goals, all scored in the first half.

He dropped three balls and Olympic scored from all three mistakes.

Olympic hit the front as early as in the second minute following a free kick by Abbas Saad which Marco dropped allowing Robbie Ironside to zip in and score from the rebound.

Two minutes later, Ironside blasted at the young goalie who could only parry the danger only as far as Jason Bennett, who cracked the rebound back into Melita's net.

Two goals ahead after only four minutes of play killed Melita.

Five minutes before half-time right back Lou Triantafylou raided down the right, crossed to Bennett whose point-blank drive again was only partially blocked by the goalie to allow Olympic striker Marko Perinovic to hit the rebound into the net for Olympic's third goal.

Melita pulled back a goal two minutes after the break through attacking midfielder Lenny Vial who stole an attempted backpass from centre-back Nick Plataniotis to his goalkeeper Gary Meier to zip in and score.

Six minutes from full-time, Olympic substitute Andrew Bernal scored with a thunderous drive from 15 metres just three minutes after he came on from the bench.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier, Triantafylou, Plataniotis, Dakos, Koch, Saad (Ollerenshaw 69), Hrist, Ironside, Refenes (Bernal 81), Perinovic, Bennett.

MELITA EAGLES: Marco, Williams, O'Donnell, Callanan, Rizzotto (Curmi 63), Gimenez, Farrugia (Cabral 67), Dickenson, Vial, Parton, Falce.

Referee: M. Loupis.
Crowd: 1614.

— JOHN ECONOMOS

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DEFERRED GAME

Brodnik brace rocks competition leaders

BY LEN CHAFER

WOLLONGONG City sent high-flying Apia home without any points after beating the QNSL leaders 2-1 in a deferred game at Brandon Park last Wednesday.

It was a matter of taking chances and luck which gave the Wolves their first win for six games.

Since their last win against St George on December 29 they had not scored a goal, so David Ratcliffe, the Wollongong City coach, was a very relieved and happy man after the match.

ceived three corners in as many minutes. At the other end Zivko Hristovski broke free down the middle of the park but elected to shoot from 25 metres out instead of passing, and his shot went well over the top.

Apia had their chances before half-time but failed to find the net.

nik, who in turn slammed the ball into the net from close range.

This was the tonic the Wolves needed and they came out in the second half even more determined.

Apia, on the other hand, was trying shots from way outside the penalty area in desperation to score but the Wollongong defence held firm.

Jason Van Blerk never stopped trying for Apia and had one or two good runs down the left, but to no avail. Ron Manley, who failed in the first half, was replaced at half-time by John McQuarrie, who seem to add a bit of sparkle to the Apia attack.

Apia were set back on their heels in the 63rd minute when a foul on David Roberts by Apia fullback Milan Blagojevic gave Wollongong a free-kick, which Hristovski took and he powered the ball into the Apia well.

It fell nicely for Brodnik, who hit a first-time left foot drive into the corner of the net.

Both teams had chances to score near the end of the game before van Blerk beat the offside trap in the 85th minute after receiving a pass from Darren Stewart and slid the ball into the net but Apia had left their run too late.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Bouhoutos 7, Skeen 6, Ratcliffe 7, Vilestira 6, Lloyd 6, Brodnik 8, McFadden 6, Hristovski 7, Roberts 5 (Murphy 63m), Petkovic 6 (Veral 55m), Crainie 6.

APIA: Pezzano 5, Blagojevic 6, Jennings 6, Stewart 7, Haliday 6, Clinch 5 (M Brown 65m), Ellem 5, Manley 5 (McQuarrie 6), R Brown 6, Bundalo 7, van Blerk 8.

Scorers: Brodnik 44, 63m for Wollongong; van Blerk 85m for Apia.

Yellow cards: Lloyd 9m, Brodnik 83m, McFadden 88m for Wollongong; Pezzano 88m for Apia.

Referee: G Power 7.
Crowd: 1121.



Wollongong City coach David Ratcliffe

Pat Brodnik, who has only played a handful of games this season, was the destroyer as he powered two left foot drives, one in each half, and sent the long suffering local supporters home happy.

Both teams took a long time to settle down, and Richard Lloyd for Wollongong was the first of four players to receive a yellow card from referee Gary Power after he made a late and high tackle on Alex Bundalo.

Apia started putting on the pressure and re-

The closest they came to scoring was in the 24th minute when Bundalo rocketed the ball on the crossbar from about 22 metres.

Paul McFadden failed to find the goal at the other end when his shot went over the bar and Apia's Rod Brown went close to scoring when his low shot was pushed around the post by goalkeeper George Bouhoutos.

One minute before half-time Brodnik was in the right place at the right time when an Hristovski shot hit teammate McFadden and went straight to Brod-

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ABBAS SAAD: his hat-trick against Wollongong City last Sunday has lifted the Sydney Olympic striker among the top QNSL goalscorers — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

Aussie coaching job up for grabs

Mike Johnston buys into the current controversy over the appointment of our national coach with strong views on the way we should go.

defence, with players not equipped to do that, when what was needed was to blitz the Israelis with sustained, aggressive pressure.

I have never ever been so frustrated at a soccer game.

On the coaches bench were the orchestrators of the Australian team, the wily, battle-hardened Frank Arok and his successful, but inexperienced assistant Berti Mariani.

More than a decade and a half ago Frank Arok was in charge of St George against Yugal in a Sydney Grand Final.

It had poured rain for days. The game should not have been played on the now defunct Sportsground which was a sea of water.

But referee Tony Boskovic decided otherwise and the game, amazingly, was played.

Yugal, recognising the need to change their traditional short-passing game played wet weather long ball football.

St George did not

change their style, they played their usual short-passing game.

Underdogs Yugal won 4-0.

In the many years between those two tactically inept matches, Frank Arok has been in charge of numerous games for St George and Australia and has employed several different playing styles and used many varying tactical formations with great success.

His weakness is he has not played the game professionally.

Yet I rate him one of the world's best coaches; absolutely dedicated, tremendously hard-working, multi-talented and with enormous presence and charisma.

With those qualities, plus an excellent mind, he should be a top coach, he has been coaching approaching 35 years.

So where does that leave him in respect to local rivals Rale Rasic, Raul Blanco, Berti Mariani, Ferenc Puskas, Ivan Raznjevic and Manfred Schaefer?

Rale Rasic will ever be remembered as the hard man who took Australia to its only World Cup finals.

However, qualifying is tougher these days. His 1987 National League win with Apia stands out amidst a series of average to poor results during the 1980s, unlike his successes in the '70s.

Nevertheless, unlike anyone else he has been there.

Raul Blanco presents a good image these days, as does his team. I was impressed the way he has adapted Marshall Soper into his team. In his early Melita games this season Soper was a seething, latent volcano ever ready to erupt — and forever holding the ball, dribbling, dribbling, head down everywhere.

The last time I saw him he was more composed and playing lots of one and two touch balls to team mates, and was an excellent team player.

Soper's change is reflected in the progress made by his coach after his many years of hard work — and, of course, Blanco has been involved with the Australian youth team.

Manfred Schaefer has been in and out of soccer during his coaching career. Indeed out for extended periods of time. But when he has been in it he has achieved much success.

Different to the thoughtful Blanco who seeks "beautiful" soccer even though he is more practical these days, Manfred is more like Rale Rasic. Hard and tactically effective. He

seems to have turned young Jason van Blerk into a very useful player and would no doubt pick Apia's Alex Bundalo, another improver, in any national team he was involved with.

Berti Mariani has a good manner and composure and an excellent brain. He will become a prime candidate for national coach, but not now.



the latter two in First Division and not one of



IVAN RAZNJEVIC

Ivan Raznjevic and Ferenc Puskas need to master the local conditions first before becoming candidates for national coach.

And if that is the case where does that leave any new overseas coach appointed to the national position?

Our best players and referees are able to hold their own in top soccer overseas. So are our best coaches.

There is no question that the likes of Rale Rasic, Frank Arok and Raul Blanco could coach in top soccer overseas — indeed Arok and Blanco have done so.

I have played for English league clubs, Doncaster, Brighton, Fulham and Newcastle.

the managers I encountered there would match Arok, Rasic or Blanco — this especially applies to Arok.

There is one other coach in this country, currently coaching in Victoria State League, who would also be way in front of the coaches I was under in England.

His name is Len McKendry, who like England's former World Cup-winning supremo Alf Ramsey is his own man, not well liked by the press, but a real pro!

McKendry is special as a coach and may yet find his niche at national team level in this country.

He is, in fact, this nation's most successful soccer coach.

FAIRFIELD CITY PRESENTATION



Fairfield City president Diego Gallo and NSW Minister for Sport Bob Rowland Smith

New Second Division NSW State League club, Fairfield City, made its official presentation in a function held at the Cabramatta Civic Centre.

Ex-Uruguay Penrith Soccer Club, relegated, from First Division, last season, in adopting the new name aims to attract a bigger following and have the support of the whole Fairfield area when they play at their new home ground, located at Knight Park.

The club left St. Mary's Cook Park because of poor support from that area.

Fairfield City officials are looking to a much better and brighter future in the very competitive Second Division after a hard and long struggle during 1989.

The healthier approach to 1990's competition must pay dividends and the support will surely increase.

The appointment of Vince Estavillo as head coach is an important asset to the club's future.

Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mr B. Rowland Smith, together with Fairfield City president, Diego Gallo, made the official presentation at the club.

Among the guests at the function were Geoff Irwin, Labor Party member for Fairfield, Alderman Toni Lord, representing the Fairfield Council, sponsors and fans.

Master of ceremonies was SBS TV personality Andy Paschalidis.

-MARIO ETCHART

EDITOR

THANKFULLY there was a Soviet trading company backing some of the accounts connected with the recent Moscow Torpedo tour.

It was well known before the tour that attendances would not be outstanding, but in the event they were less than expected.

The Socceroos did get the welcome chance for a hit out, but it was well and truly proved that the excellent crowds that attendended for the last Torpedo tour (1965) and Moscow Dynamo (1970 and 1971) no longer are in evidence.

The Australian Soccer Federation must now enter the picture, hopefully with a full strength Wales on the job.

It is about time, apart from vital full internationals, that teams like Liverpool, Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur are tested out.

It does well to hark back to an excellent Roma team of 1966 and also the Juventus side of 1984 although on that occasion the presence of too many touring sides spoiled the broth.

There have been some marked successes in international games in recent years, beginning with the full house World Cup playoff against Scotland in 1985.

Then in 1988 there were the big Gold Cup crowds in Sydney for the matches against Brazil and Argentina, and in 1989 the capacity plus crowd at the Sydney Football Stadium when the 1-1 draw with Israel saw Australia exit the World Cup.

Given these successful promotions, it is an unhappy duty — for the sake of possible progress — to record some of the gaping holes in the Moscow Torpedo promotion.

This relates largely to the addition of a match against Sydney Olympic late in proceedings — a game that drew a hatful of people, and surely left an outstanding visiting club wondering what it was all about.

Prior to the game there was a tussle with the National Soccer League, who had to be assured that the Sydney Olympic club would be ready to field a full strength team for their National Cup tie on the Wednesday night.

As it stood Olympic fielded a big contingent of youth team players against Torpedo.

Players went on and off in the second half to the complete bewilderment of the few fans who attended.

This type of act occurred in the Socceroos' successful effort against Torpedo in Melbourne, when Australia made five changes and Torpedo four.

The ASF in future should lay down the law and compel Australian coaches to stick by the international rule of only fielding two substitutes.

The paying public deserves competitive games, not a procession of substitutes that destroy the continuity of a match and makes a mockery of it.

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Bergers tipped to win Super League

BY GREG BLAKE

HEIDELBERG, coached by its mentor during the glory days of the late 1970s and early 1980s, Len McKendry, is the pre-season favourite to win Victoria's new Super League competition.

The Bergers, relegated from the QNSL in 1987 and again last season, are set to jump back into the big league at their first attempt, according to ASW's reliable "off course" bookie who, for good reason, remains nameless.

The 1990 Super League season should be dominated by former QNSL clubs Heidelberg, Melbourne JUST and Brunswick Juventus, with last season's champions Morwell Falcons also a chance to be up in the running.

The best of the 'outsiders' is Caulfield City, coached by John Margaritis.

The pre-season odds board for the 1990 season, which kicks off on February 24, is:

- ★ Heidelberg 2-1 fav.
- ★ Juventus 3-1
- ★ Melbourne JUST 9-2
- ★ Morwell Falcons 6-1
- ★ Caulfield City 10-1
- ★ St Albans 20-1
- ★ Croydon City 33-1
- ★ Green Gully 33-1
- ★ Altona Gate 50-1
- ★ Northcote City 50-1
- ★ Bulleen 100-1
- ★ Thomastown 100-1

The full draw for the 1990 Victorian Super League season is as follows:

ROUND 1

SAT. FEBRUARY 24

Altona Gate vs Northcote City
Morwell Falcons vs Croydon City

SUN. FEBRUARY 25,

Brunswick United Juventus vs St Albans
Green Gully vs Caulfield City
Melbourne City JUST vs Bulleen
Heidelberg United Alex. vs Thomastown

ROUND 2

SAT. MARCH 3

Caulfield City vs Melbourne City JUST
Northcote City vs Brunswick Utd Juventus

SUN. MARCH 4

Bulleen vs Heidelberg Utd Alex.
Croydon City vs Green Gully
St Albans vs Morwell Falcons
Thomastown vs Altona Gate

ROUND 3

SAT. MARCH 10

Morwell Falcons vs Northcote City

SUN. MARCH 11

Brunswick Utd Juventus vs Altona Gate
Green Gully vs St Albans
Melbourne City JUST vs Croydon City
Heidelberg Utd Alex. vs Caulfield City
Bulleen vs Thomastown

ROUND 4

SAT. MARCH 17

Northcote City vs Green Gully
Altona Gate vs Morwell Falcons
Caulfield City vs Bulleen

SUN. MARCH 18

Croydon City vs Heidelberg Utd Alex.
Thomastown vs Brunswick Utd Juventus
St Albans vs Melbourne City JUST

ROUND 5

SAT. MARCH 24

Morwell Falcons vs Brunswick Utd Juventus
Caulfield City vs Thomastown

SUN. MARCH 25

Green Gully vs Altona Gate
Melbourne City JUST vs Northcote City
Heidelberg Utd Alex. vs St Albans
Bulleen vs Croydon City

ROUND 6

SAT. MARCH 31

Northcote City vs Heidelberg Utd Alex.
Altona Gate vs Melbourne City JUST
Brunswick Utd Juventus vs Green Gully

SUN. APRIL 1

Croydon City vs Caulfield City
St Albans vs Bulleen
Thomastown vs Morwell Falcons

ROUND 7

SAT. APRIL 7

Caulfield City vs St Albans

SUN. APRIL 8

Green Gully vs Morwell Falcons
Melbourne City JUST vs Brunswick Utd Juventus

Heidelberg Utd Alex. vs Altona Gate
Bulleen vs Northcote City
Thomastown vs Croydon City

ROUND 8

SAT. APRIL 14

Northcote City vs Caulfield City
Altona Gate vs Bulleen
Morwell Falcons vs Melbourne City JUST

SUN. APRIL 15

St Albans vs Croydon City
Green Gully vs Thomastown
Brunswick Utd Juventus vs Heidelberg Utd Alex.

ROUND 9

SAT. APRIL 21

Caulfield City vs Altona Gate

SUN. APRIL 22

Thomastown vs St Albans
Melbourne City JUST v Green Gully
Heidelberg Utd Alex. v Morwell Falcons
Bulleen v Brunswick Utd Juventus
Croydon City v Northcote City

ROUND 10

SAT. APRIL 28

Northcote City v St Albans
Morwell Falcons v Bulleen
Altona Gate v Croydon City

SUN. APRIL 29

Melbourne City JUST v Thomastown
Brunswick Utd Juventus v Caulfield City
Green Gully v Heidelberg Utd Alex.

ROUND 11

SAT. MAY 5

Caulfield City v Morwell Falcons

SUN. MAY 6

Heidelberg Utd Alex. v Melbourne City JUST
Bulleen v Green Gully
Croydon City v Brunswick Utd Juventus
St Albans v Altona Gate
Thomastown v Northcote City

ROUND 12

SAT. MAY 12

Northcote City v Altona Gate
Caulfield City v Green Gully

SUN. MAY 13

St Albans v Brunswick Utd Juventus
Croydon City v Morwell Falcons
Bulleen v Melbourne City JUST
Thomastown vs Heidelberg Utd Alex.

ROUND 13

SAT. MAY 19

Morwell Falcons v St Albans
Altona Gate v Thomastown

SUN. MAY 20

Heidelberg Utd Alex. v Bulleen
Melbourne City JUST v Caulfield City
Green Gully v Croydon City
Brunswick Utd Juventus v Northcote City

ROUND 14

SAT. MAY 26

Altona Gate v Brunswick Utd Alex.
Northcote City v Morwell Falcons
Caulfield City v Heidelberg Utd Alex.

SUN. MAY 27

St Albans v Green Gully
Croydon City v Melbourne City JUST
Thomastown v Bulleen

ROUND 15

SAT. JUNE 2

Morwell Falcons v Altona Gate

SUN. JUNE 3

Heidelberg Utd Alex. v Croydon City
Melbourne City JUST v St Albans
Brunswick Utd Alex. v Thomastown
Green Gully v Northcote City
Bulleen v Caulfield City

ROUND 16

SAT. JUNE 9

Brunswick Utd Juventus v Morwell Falcons
Altona Gate v Green Gully
Northcote City v Melbourne City JUST
St Albans v Heidelberg Utd Alex.
Croydon City v Bulleen
Thomastown v Caulfield City

NOTE: All games being played Saturday due to Dockerty Cup fixtures on Monday June 11, 1990 (Queen's Birthday)

ROUND 17

SAT. JUNE 16

Caulfield City v Croydon City
Morwell Falcons v Thomastown



Heidelberg coach Len McKendry and Socceroo Garry McDowall will team up this season as the Bergers attempt to regain QNSL status.

Dispute rages

BY GREG BLAKE

AS we went to press there was still no suggestion of a settlement in the on-again, off-again saga of the proposed Victorian Super League.



The hearing of an injunction aimed at stopping the Super League (due to kick-off on February 24) was due to be completed last Monday (February 19) in Melbourne's Supreme Court.

The injunction taken out by five dissenting clubs — Mooroolbark, Fawkner, Ringwood City, Fawkner and Albion — was due to be heard last Wednesday but the hearing was postponed at the request of Victorian Soccer Federation.

The VSF, the Super League's organising body, has received substantial financial support from the 12 competing clubs to fight the legal battle.

The five clubs going in to bat against the VSF face possible expulsion from the Federation, according to FIFA regulations.

SUN. JUNE 17

Bulleen v St Albans
Heidelberg Utd Alex. v Northcote City
Melbourne City JUST v Altona Gate
Green Gully v Brunswick Utd Juventus

ROUND 18

SAT. JUNE 23

Morwell Falcons v Green Gully
Altona Gate v Heidelberg Utd Alex.
Northcote City v Bulleen

SUN. JUNE 24

St Albans v Caulfield City
Croydon City v Thomastown
Brunswick Utd Juventus v Melbourne City JUST

ROUND 19

SAT. JUNE 30

Caulfield City v Northcote City

SUN. JULY 1

Croydon City v St Albans
Thomastown v Green Gully
Bulleen v Altona Gate
Heidelberg Utd Alex. v Brunswick Utd Juv.
Melbourne City JUST v Morwell Falcons

ROUND 20

SAT. JULY 7

Morwell Falcons v Heidelberg Utd Alex.
Altona Gate v Caulfield City
Northcote City v Croydon City

SUN. JULY 8

Green Gully v Melbourne City JUST
Brunswick Utd Juventus v Bulleen
St Albans v Thomastown

ROUND 21

SAT. JULY 14

Caulfield City v Brunswick Utd Juventus

SUN. JULY 15

Thomastown v Melbourne City JUST
St Albans v Northcote City
Bulleen v Morwell Falcons
Heidelberg Utd Alex. v Green Gully
Croydon City v Altona Gate

ROUND 22

SAT. JULY 21

Morwell Falcons v Caulfield City
Altona Gate v St Albans
Northcote City v Thomastown

SUN. JULY 22

Melbourne City JUST v Heidelberg Utd Alex.
Green Gully v Bulleen
Brunswick Utd Juventus v Croydon City

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New tactics may help Brazil regain crown

BRAZIL, equipped with new tactics and steeled by the European experience of many of their players, are ready to reclaim their crown as the kings of international soccer at this year's World Cup finals.

That is the view of their former coach Joao Saldanha, the man who led their qualification to the 1970 finals in Mexico where they claimed the Jules Rimet trophy outright with their third World Cup triumph.

"If we compare the present team to the 1970 and 1982 sides, we will all recognise that those two were much more brilliant, yet the current squad is by far the strongest we have ever formed," said Saldanha.

"Our coach can easily select 22 excellent players, something that never happened in the past."

Brazil, dominant in world soccer from the late 1950s to 1970, gained renewed hope last year when they won the South American championship for the first time since 1949.

It was their first major trophy since 1970.

Saldanha said the present squad had more depth than in the past and noted that in 1958 and 1970 "the reserves were in general very poor."

The only country to participate in every World Cup finals series since the first in 1930, Brazil have the best overall record.

They have won the trophy three times, finished second once (1950), third twice (1938 and 1978) and fourth in 1974.

In 1982, after being installed as favourites following their convincing first phase form, the Brazilians were eliminated by Italy, a defensive team which peaked at the right time.

In Mexico four years ago, they were knocked out in the quarter-finals after losing to France on penalties.

They conceded only one goal in normal play during the competition — even though coach Tele Santana had kept faith with the traditional Brazilian style of pure attacking play.

Current coach Sebastiao Lazaroni, installed in March 1989, has made some changes, but without entirely sacrificing their Samba style.

When he took over early last year he faced several problems, including the absence of most of his leading players who were banned by their European clubs from taking part in Brazil's international friendlies.

After four unconvincing victories, Lazaroni's team was submitted to a serious test with dismal results when they went on an unhappy European tour which included a 4-0 defeat by Denmark.

"At that stage, I knew something had to be done, otherwise we would get nowhere," said Lazaroni.

So, without time to practice, I decided to make use of the libero during the South American championships.

"After a bad start, it worked perfectly. Now, to be honest, I am not willing to drop it."

After Lazaroni started to employ a libero, Brazil's defence tightened up and in 14 matches in the second part of 1989 conceded only two goals.

Lazaroni, while delighted with the libero's efficiency, has pointed out that his tactics have not robbed Brazil of their attacking style, citing 26 goals scored since its introduction.

"Our defence has been tested by Uruguay, Argentina, Yugoslavia, Italy and Holland," among others," he said. "The tactic has proved its efficiency."

Bebeto, the talented striker of Rio's Vasco da Gama, has been the team's leading scorer with Careca.

Under Lazaroni's guidance, Brazil have a record of 16 wins, five draws and three defeats — all on tour in Europe last June. In that stretch, they have scored 41 goals and conceded only 11.

Lazaroni is expected to choose Brazil's 22-man World Cup squad on April 16. Before that, however, the Brazilians will play at least two warm-up matches: on February 21 they meet Poland and on March 28 they visit England.

Except for the players under contract with Portuguese clubs (Ricardo Gomes, Aldair and Vitorino of Benfica, Silas of Sporting and Branco of Porto), Lazaroni should not have any problem acquiring Brazil's "European" crop of players since their national championships will have ended.

That many of his key players perform in Europe is an advantage.

according to Lazaroni. "They are aware of the European style and they know the exact capacity of the players and teams they will have to face."

Unhappy with the training schedule for the last World Cup in Mexico, officials have already cleared acclimatisation and training plans.

The Brazilians will practice in Gubbio from May 16. After a period of acclimatisation, the team will be based at Asti, 40km south-west of Turin where the Brazilians are drawn to meet Sweden, Costa Rica and Scotland.

Careca, with experience playing alongside Diego Maradona, is likely to be Brazil's key World Cup figure.

However, players like defenders Jorginho, Mauro Galvan, Mozer, Branco, Mazinho, strikers Bebeto and Romario, midfielders Silas and Alemão and even goalkeeper Taffarel could very well turn themselves into soccer celebrities at this year's World Cup.

MUBARAK UNITED

WHAT'S in a name? The United Arab Emirates will be a commentator's nightmare.

For no fewer than seven members of their World Cup squad have the surname Mubarak.

Still, that's perhaps not as tough as the task set in the recent Israeli First Division match between Maccabi Tel Aviv and Bnei Yehuda.

Both sides included three players called Cohen.



JOHNNY WARREN

HAS HIS SAY

Good luck, Zlatko, I know how you feel...

FROM the moment Zlatko Nastevski innocently turned in the 33rd minute of his Socceroo debut against Torpedo Moscow at the Sydney Football Stadium last month I instinctively knew he was in deep trouble.

A simple turn, something the Players' Player of the Year and nation's leading scorer has done millions of times in his illustrious career, suddenly took on tragic proportions.

A gap between the old and new turf, hastily laid for the Socceroo match and Zlatko's career lay-in tatters, his knee giving way completely.

With Les Murray in the SBS commentary box I immediately believed Zlatko was in trouble and said so on air.

The really bad injuries always happen in the simplest of manners. Even after the match, opinion within the Socceroo camp was that Zlatko would only be out for a "couple of weeks".

Had I been a gambling man I would have put heaps on that prediction being very far from true.

Even a week later, a chat with Zlatko, then on crutches, at the Marconi-Apia derby at Marconi Stadium and further enquiries with Marconi, officials again came out with the "he'll be OK in a couple of weeks".

Without saying so, I disbelieved the talk.

Unfortunately, I was right.

A few days later Zlatko underwent cruciate ligament surgery from Dr Merv Cross and will be out of the game for at least six months.

So much for a couple of weeks and one could be unkind in saying that

six months could also be a little too optimistic.

What, readers may ask, gives me any great medical insight into the Nastevski injury?

Quite simply that I hold the "honour" of undergoing the very first cruciate ligament operation performed in this country back in 1971.

Captain of Australia, captain of St George, life was pretty exciting stuff in those days.

It was 1971 and we had a new national team and a new national coach.

Just back from St George's history-making Tokyo international tournament win.

A little earlier just back from the Socceroos' world tour with Raul Rasic at the helm for the first time and the 1974 World Cup just around the corner.

A simple turn against Prague at Wentworth Park and the knee gives way.

At the time Raul Blanco, who was marking me, was blamed for tackling me from behind.

He never touched me, just a turn and the knee collapsed.

He'll be right in a couple of weeks was the medical opinion, followed by the usual "it's only in the head."

A make or break return a few weeks later against Western Suburbs in the mud at Hurstville and at the

first tackle the leg goes again.

Cartilage operation on your 28th birthday — May 17 — turns into a nightmare as the first post-operative feeling is a thigh to toe bent plaster cast and the doctor, former Australian Rugby Union five-eight, the great Dick Tooth — explaining what they did in surgery.

The cruciate ligament which controls the stability of the knee has been destroyed, an artificial one put in its place a couple of cartilages removed.

Plaster for three months and as it is the first operation of its kind in this country, we have to see what happens from there.

No-one has played again after cruciate damage. Reg Gusner, the Australian rugby league great, is one famous sportsman whose name comes to mind as having his career cut short just around the same time.

Thanks to some great support, particularly from family and St George, life's obsession becomes to play again.

It was a traumatic 18-month period I would not put my worst enemy through.

Daily sessions with a group of young paraplegics at Prince Henry Hospital helps and motivates.

These friendly youngsters can't walk again, let alone play

football.

A four-month FIFA coaching course under Dettmar Cramer in Malaysia also helps significantly to recover.

But it was full-time work to play again after 18 months with a lot of help from a lot of people.

And then the constant comparisons when you start playing again — he's favouring his leg, he's not as good as before, and a whole range of criticisms.

Some of the scars of that "first in Australia" achievement still show today.

I mention all this as my heart goes out to Zlatko Nastevski.

I felt the pain in my right knee when he went down at the Sydney Football Stadium and I'll feel a lot of the physical and emotional pain as he tries to come back.

Family, friends and Marconi must stand by him all the way — he'll need you desperately in the coming months.

At the time of my injury I was 28 years of age, Zlatko is 33.

But my history-making operation was some 20 years ago (1971).

Today one assumes operative procedures and remedial treatment have improved considerably.

Good luck Zlatko, keep smiling and keep working hard on what we all hope will be a successful recovery.

OPINION LINE

A surprisingly high number of respondents, some 74%, believe the ASF is correct in advertising for the position of national coach.

Over the next week fans are asked to vote for whom they think should lead the Socceroos in Australia's next World Cup campaign.

Many believe Frank Arok should retain the position, many favour other local coaches such as Bert Mariani, Ferenc Puskas, Manfred Schaefer, Eddie Thomson, Les Scheinflug, Raul Blanco, Rale Rasic or Zoran Matic, while many believe we should seek an overseas coach.

For the cost of a local call fans can register their vote over the next three weeks by calling 0055 20526.

Just read out the name of the coach you want to lead Australia.

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Revamped State League cannot work



FIERY Melita Eagles president Sam Vella last week expressed some strong opinions against the proposal for including NSL under 23 teams in the NSW State League new format — and what he had to say made a lot of sense.

"There are plenty of reasons why Melita declined to have anything to do with this idea," he responded when queried about his club's refusal to join Sydney Olympic, St George, Marconi and Sydney

Croatia in a revamped league.

"We are all in favour of the concept of running an U/23 competition but it has to be played in conjunction with the NSL and Youth League in summer."

One of Vella's main objections is the fact that under this proposal Melita Stadium will have to be used without a break for 12 months of the year.

What possible chance is there of preparing a suitable playing surface for the following summer season when it has to be used throughout winter as well?" he asked.

Not an unreasonable question and one which the other clubs involved must also seriously address.

"Besides," he continued, "We simply can-

BY FRANK SCICLUNA



State League clubs are in for a shock if they believe large crowds will flock to matches involving under 23 National League sides.

not afford the additional costs of running soccer 12 months of the year.

"We want to concentrate on utilising our total resources to build strong NSL and Youth League squads."

"My club agrees wholeheartedly with the concept of another age group to fill the gap, but what's wrong with having the U/23s as early games to the NSL and moving the Youth League to midweek?"

"That way we will not be forced into employing backroom staff like coaches, physios, managers, ground staff and administrators in both summer and winter."

Another point raised by the Eagles supremo is one concerning the 19s.

"Most of them," he explained, "are at an age where they would be eligible for two or more years."

"Are they expected to play soccer non-stop in both the NSL and

State Leagues or will we have to recruit two entirely different youth squads? Can you imagine the staggering costs incurred and what sort of return can possibly be expected from the investment?" Vella points out.

It's not easy to come up with good, logical answers to many of those questions and one cannot help but wonder whether the clubs which have decided to accept this proposal have really thought the matter right through.

Surely, they cannot expect their supporters — as keen as some of them may be — to turn up in their thousands in order to watch an under 23 side reinforced with a couple of over age players do battle in a totally meaningless competition?

This whole business can only rob the State League of all remnants of credibility.

Imagine the highly unlikely, but entirely

possible scenario of all the NSL clubs filling the top four positions at the end of the season, promotion to the NSL will then go to a fifth placed team which had proved itself unable to compete successfully against NSL reserve sides.

Vella raised another valid argument when he questioned the fairness to State League clubs competing for promotion and relegation.

"Some of them invest big money in their efforts to gain NSL status," he said.

"Success or failure for these clubs can therefore hinge on the outcome of matches against opposition with absolutely nothing to play for."

Vella preferred not to go into too much detail on that line of thinking but it's easy to imagine all the devious possibilities which can arise from that sort of situation.

A close examination of the proposal put up by the NSW Federation shows that there can be very little, if any, value in it for NSL clubs.

The counter proposition of an U/23 competition with limited over age players as a curtain raiser to NSL fixtures combined with a strictly U/19 midweek league is eminently more logical.

If this whole exercise is meant to fill the huge gap which currently exists, and at the same time develop youngsters for an U/23 Olympic

team, the objective can surely be better met if all three competitions are played concurrently.

The NSW Federation is only clutching at straws if it sees its proposal as the mean of reviving an ailing State League devoid of big crowd pulling sides like Olympic and Croatia.

Hopes of these clubs dragging hordes of fans along to watch their reserve teams playing for



little more than pride does nothing except raise false expectations for its financially strapped outfits.

Sam Vella and his Melita Eagles together with the more sensible NSL clubs who refused to get involved are correct in their assessment.

Letter of the Week

This is the answer by Australian Soccer Federation general secretary Alan Vessey to John Eyndhoven from South Australia whose letter complaining about the new development levy on players we published last week.

Dear Mr Eyndhoven

Your letter concerning the development fee has been noted.

It is important to understand the development fee is for the future and will not be used to rectify past mistakes.

The resolution clearly states the income is to be managed and audited as a separate source solely to offset the costs of maintaining our four national teams.

It is our desire to put in place a financial structure that allows for the best possible preparation and opportunity for our teams, particularly those at Youth U/17 and U/20 levels.

The better players, some of whom might be those to which you refer in your letter, will be the real beneficiaries of such a policy.

We understand the limited finances of clubs and their members but suggest the fee, which is no more than one can of Coca-Cola a year, is not in our view an excessive fee considering the benefit soccer in Australia will achieve by its introduction.

Yours sincerely,

Alan J. Vessey,
General Secretary,
ASF



Melita's Sam Vella

Quit

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

NO THANKS, I'LL PASS!

[Faint, illegible text columns]

Quit

Reusch goalkeeper award

BY KEITH GILMOUR

IN conjunction with Reusch Australia Pty Ltd, Australian Soccer Weekly is now conducting a Goalkeeper of the Year Award.



TONY PEZZANO

Reusch managing director. Martin Reusch has announced the prize as a fine Reusch wrist watch together with a cheque for \$150.

The points award system was set out in

ASW on Wednesday January 31, when the full details of the ASW Player of the Year Award and the Goalkeeper Award were also announced in conjunction with Victoria's Bayswater Indoor Soccer Centre manager, Nick Van Egmond's prize.

Mr Reusch came to Australia from Germany a few years ago.

The company manufactures the world's best selling range of goalkeeper gloves and equipment.

They have met with widespread acceptance right throughout Australia.

Mr Reusch said "Reusch Australia is gratified to be associated with Australian Soccer Weekly, Australia's leading soccer publication in recognising the country's leading goalkeeper."

"This is especially valuable, as leading writers throughout Australia are making



Martin Reusch, of goalkeeping glove fame, poses with goalies John Filan (left) and Dragan Pupovac — both, of course, sporting the famed Reusch equipment.

their assessments on goalkeepers' performances each week."

Points updates will be published regularly in ASW.

Leading contenders for the goalkeeping award after 16 rounds are exciting young St George keeper John Filan, Apia Leichhardt

captain Tony Pezzano and Wollongong City revelation of the sea-

son, Dragan Pupovac. To qualify for first prize, a goalkeeper

must have collected points in 20 QNSL regular season rounds.

Giant boot sale

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SPORTSCENE, at Sydney's Leichhardt Market-town, is launching a huge \$100,000 Sale from next week offering great specials on all sports gear, especially soccer boots.

Sportscene's entrepreneur, Mr Nick Savvas, told ASW last night "We did a big sell-out last season and it was a knock-out."

So I've decided to launch another one again.

We will have some soccer personalities assisting us during the sale which kicks off next Monday (February 26).

"Socceroo skipper, Charlie Yankos, who is the Centre's marketing manager, will make spe-



ROBBIE HOOKER

cial appearances during the Sale.

"Also coming in to help us with this promotion will be Sydney

Olympic's youth international defender, Davie Barrett, and new Socceroo Robbie Hooker," said Mr Savvas.

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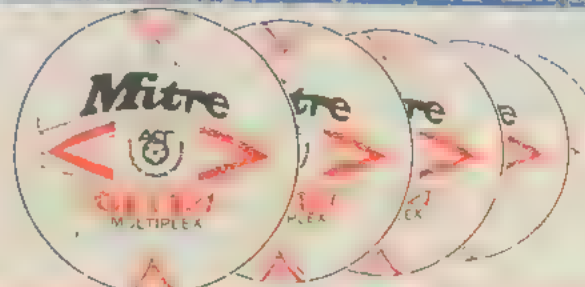
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Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . .



FRED DE JONG — New Zealand's top scorer at the recent King's Cup in Bangkok. He may be headed for Holland later this year.

CHELSEA have made a bid for Eddie Krncevic, who has had a most unhappy time in France since joining Mulhouse from Anderlecht in the off-season.

Krncevic travelled to England last week to have talks with Chelsea boss Bobby Campbell.

DON'T be surprised if Fred de Jong moves to Holland at the end of the QNSL summer season.

De Jong, born in New Zealand, of Dutch parents, has had feelers from a couple of leading Dutch First Division sides.

They want him in August and Marconi have said they would not stand in his way.

De Jong was New Zealand's top scorer in the recent King's Cup in Thailand.

BILLY VOJTEK in-

tends to play as well as coach Victorian First Division club Essendon this season.

The 47-year-old former Socceroo striker, who already holds the record as the oldest player to have appeared in the State League when he was 40 for St Albans, will be edging closer to the world record of former English great Stanley Matthews, who was in his early fifties when he played his last match for Stoke City.

NSL general manager Peter Russell is back on deck after having a week's rest on medical advice.

Peter was suffering from stress. Last year he had mild heart problems.

No doubt, the backlog of deferred games due to the rain in Sydney has been causing

him severe pressure. Our sincere wishes for a full recovery.

SUNSHINE George Cross are to appoint a full-time manager to run their affairs on a more professional manner.

TONY VRZINA, coach of Sydney Croatia, is "unhappy" because he has not enough to do, would you believe?

The Victorian trouble-shooter, who has "rescued" many clubs in the past, has done wonders since joining Croatia.

He has lifted them out of the relegation zone and given them respectable middle-of-the-table status, but the 52-year-old Vrzina says he needs more work to keep him occupied.

I never realised being a full-time coach would give me so much leisure time. I am someone who likes to be on the go. I don't appreciate idleness," he says.

JOHN KOSMINA has knocked back an offer to return to National League football.

The Socceroo great had been asked by former national side teammate David Ratchffe to join his Wollongong City, but Kossie declined as he felt he would have needed at least six weeks to get back into shape.

But Kosmina is keen to play in the NSW State League — and Sutherland could be his club in 1990.

It seems likely that several Sydney-based national team players will be making guest appearances in this year's NSW State League after they have completed their QNSL club commitments in May.

The NSW Soccer Federation is expected to agree to the requests of some of the Socceroos.

FRANK FARINA has extended his lead in the Belgian First Division goalscoring list and is now a raging hot favourite to become the second Australian in a row to take out the "goleador" crown.

Eddie Krncevic was top scorer last season.

The two Torpedo Moscow players who are keen to return to join Sydney Olympic are striker Andrei Rudakov and defender Valentin Kovach.

JOHN GARDINER is expected to apply for

the Socceroo coaching position.

The former Sunshine George Cross coach, out of the game for six months, also admits he would be happy to be Frank Arok's assistant, should he retain the job.

HARRY MICHELL may need an operation. X-rays will determine the extent of an upper leg injury which may turn out to be a hernia for the South Melbourne player.

VEDRAN ROZIC returned to Yugoslavia last week. The former Sydney Croatia player-coach will be back through. He will brush up on the latest coaching techniques for a couple of years before returning to Australia.

South Melbourne's former first-team keeper Con Giatas has returned from a 12 month lay-off from the game and has been transfer-listed by Hellas at \$10,000.

FORMER Brisbane City and Melbourne JUST star Luciano Fabrizio is back in the QNSL with Sunshine George Cross. The former AIS youngster was snapped up by injury-hit Georgie after it seemed likely that Fabrizio would be joining former JUST teammate Kenny Murphy at Super League club Thomastown. Fabrizio was signed in time for him to play for George Cross against South Melbourne Hellas in a first round NSL Cup tie last Wednesday night.

Victorian Super League club Northcote City is set to sign Manny Anezakis from South Melbourne Hellas and Melbourne Croatia's former Preston skipper Con Opasins.

JEFF CURRAN, the Western Australian captain against Torpedo Moscow, and sweeper of the Athena side, is trialling with Adelaide Hellas as is WA striker Paul Farmer. Both players came highly recommended by their coach Alan Vest and by Australian Director of Coaching Eddie Thomson.

FANS caught throwing flares at games in SA will be charged.

There has been a spate of flare throwing at recent QNSL matches and it is worrying club and SA Soccer Federation officials.

Anyone caught



This Apia Leichhardt trio of goalkeeper Brett Hughes, striker Rod Brown and under 19 coach Terry Butler was all smiles on the bench at Lambert Park — and with good reason as Apia still lead the QNSL.

throwing flares will be charged and if a flare is thrown from a group, all will be put out of the ground," said SASF general manager, Mick Wells.

The SASF also will begin improvements soon on Hindmarsh.

Tenders will be called soon for the improvement of floodlighting with an April start likely for the work.

FORMER Adelaide City and Socceroo striker David Mitchell is available for transfer — for more than a \$1 million.

Mitchell is disenchanted at Stamford Bridge where he has been unable to break into the League side.

He was lined up for a switch to Belgium to either Standard Liege or Antwerp but no move could be completed before their transfer deadline.

Dutch side Twente Enschede is keen to sign him but Wimbledon, Luton and West Brom in England also are interested in his future.

Former Scottish international and St George goalkeeper Frank Haffey is still on the job this year as assistant coach to Alan Bourke with NSW Federation First Division club North Shore United. The club retained its leading players, although it lost schoolboy star Chris Bradley, who was signed by West German Bundesliga side Bayer Uerdingen.

HELLAS has denied defender Mike Barnett is on the transfer list.

He did not play in the club's Ampol Cup run after being dropped from the NSL squad.

But club president Michael Aronis said: "He is like anybody else and will have to fight his way back into

the side. We shall look at any offers that come in for him, though."

THE Australian tour by famous Dutch coach Wiel Coerver, which was to have run from April 15 to May 3, has been cancelled.

PAUL TRIMBOLI and **DAVID BARRATT** will be celebrating their 21st birthday this week.

The Sydney Olympic fullback's birthday is today (February 21) and the South Melbourne striker turns 21 on February 24.

Trimboli and Barratt are close friends. They met in Tasmania at the national youth championship and they roomed together at the inaugural under 16 World Cup in China.

The saga of Jeff 'Dame Nellie Melba' Faulkner has ended. The 33-year-old Sunshine

George Cross veteran has definitely played his last QNSL game after breaking the club record of NSL appearances. The likeable Faulkner played his last game in a 3-1 home defeat against Sydney Croatia.

"Man-mountain" defender Aki Kotzamichalis is likely to join Jeff Faulkner at Green Gully for the 1990 Victorian season. Kotzamichalis has been restricted to a handful of NSL appearances.

Middle Park is facing problems with its ground-sharing agreement between QNSL club South Melbourne Hellas and Victorian Super League outfits Brunswick Juventus and Caulfield City. Alternative venues will have to be found with a number of fixtures involving the three clubs all set down for the same day.

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Public response to the national team

BY PAUL GOODWIN

THE reasons behind the relatively poor public attendance for the first appearance, in many months, of the national team, in its game against Torpedo Moscow at the Sydney Football Stadium, are worth examining.

already shown, beyond doubt, that when the national side is engaged in matches of real importance, even against countries well below top standard, such as Israel and New Zealand, that they will flock to the games.

The programme for the Socceroos over the years has always made provision for challenge matches against tour-

be ready to show that it is mature enough to restrict its activities, exclusively, to games against other national sides.

Visiting overseas club sides could play, instead, against strong local clubs, augmented by extra talent if necessary and still attract worthwhile attendances, but for the national side to have

Apia. The reason? Everyone knew that the match had real meaning and gave it their wholehearted support.

The national side is an asset to Australia and it can continue to improve, while at the same time attracting growing support by engaging in official international matches with other nations, outside the essential World Cup qualifying rounds.

There are numerous national sides playing at a level equal to or just above our Socceroos, both in Europe and in Asia and regular competition with these countries would bring the game better respect from the general sporting public and the media.

For example, Greece, Turkey, Portugal, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Austria could all be promoted as principal soccer-playing nations equipped with teams capable of drawing crowds and being matched by Australia in a true contest.

The last visit by the Czechs was ill-timed, but the Socceroos were not disgraced at what was an early stage of their preparation, while the visits of Greece, Turkey, Portugal and Yugoslavia would draw huge numbers of people with sentimental attachment to those regions.

Although such matches would only be Friendly Internationals, they would certainly be a step forward from the meaningless club-versus-country clashes being promoted at present.

The agenda could be complemented by a Pan Asian Cup similar to the European Nations Cup and the South American equivalent.

Just a couple of days after the Torpedo game, a crowd of almost identical proportions turned out for the Quit National Soccer League match between Marconi and



Matches such as this one early last year between the Socceroos and Malmo of Sweden ought to be discontinued. The Socceroos should only play against national sides.

A huge stadium, which had been filled beyond capacity for the Israel World Cup game, looked almost desolate by comparison, when Australia paraded its wares against the polished USSR club side.

As an exercise for the squad it was ideal. A much needed chance for match practice against accomplished opponents, but as a public spectacle it fell well short of the mark.

The public had

ing club teams, usually brought out to capitalise on the fame of the visitors and their players.

While no-one would wish to deny expatriate followers of these club sides, particularly those from Britain, the chance to see old favourites in action, surely the vast majority of the Australian soccer public expects a more balanced approach.

The code at international representative level must now

David Clarkson lets the "Sunshine" in

BY OREG BLANK



David Clarkson being smothered by happy team-mates in his Adelaide City days. He has found a new lease of life at Sunshine — JANUSZ KAMMA photo.

WHEN it comes to scoring goals David Clarkson is a natural. And it seems the agile 22-year-old Sunshine George Cross midfielder is just as adept at achieving goals as well.

He had just three in mind when his pre-season move from Adelaide City to Skinner Reserve came about.

The first was to prove Adelaide City boss Zoran Matic was wrong in not giving the gifted blonde an extended run in the first team. Mission accomplished.

The second was to help establish a new regime at George Cross, a regime capable of gaining the club some much-needed respectability. Mission accomplished.

The third was to eventually earn a green and gold Socceroo jersey. Verdict: if he continues to develop at the current rate he is sure to do just that.

For Clarkson it is a taste of soccer's high life for the very first time and he's enjoying every minute of it. But he is determined that only more hard work will keep the accolades flowing.

"You feel like you're put on a pedestal (by the fans) when you are playing well and winning," he told ASW.

"When things are going well it's like nothing can go wrong and I like that feeling."

"But having seen how things have happened in the past I know things can go

wrong and you can come crashing down pretty quickly.

"That's where I know I have to keep on working hard at my game and not take it easy."

Clarkson seemed to burst on to the QNSL scene this year when his two goals against St George in Round 3, after coming on as a substitute, put his name in the headlines.

But in reality Clarkson has had a comprehensive apprenticeship in Aussie soccer.

English-born and Tasmanian-raised Clarkson spent two years with the AIS in 1986 and 1987, moved to the Gold Coast with his parents and spent six months in England on trial with Newcastle United before he settled on NSL football with Brisbane Lions.

Before joining Lions he had twice been contacted by Adelaide City coach Zoran Matic.

Although tempted at the offer of an Adelaide move Clarkson stayed put until Lions fell by the wayside and when Matic asked a third time, Clarkson jumped at the chance to stay in the NSL.

Matic, regarded as one of the shrewdest judges of talent in the land, might have made his one great mistake with Clarkson by giving him few chances.

Clarkson was limited to just three first team appearances and spent most weekends playing State League on the Saturday and bench-warming for the NSL team on a Sunday.

"That has been the nice change in coming to George Cross," he explained. I just wasn't getting a run in Adelaide. I thought I was playing pretty well in the State League side but in the end my confidence was very low.

"And the really frustrating part was that I really got no explanation as to why I wasn't getting a game. In the end I just had to get away and I asked for a transfer."

New George Cross boss Ernie Merrick, who had heard plenty from the AIS about the potential of Clarkson, was quick to snap him up.

Joining Craig and Paul Foster as George's major off-season signings gave Clarkson the incentive and, in turn, he was able to breathe new life into the struggling Melbourne western suburban club.

By week 14 of the 1989/90 season Clarkson had certainly proved his point to Adelaide City as he moved into the elite top 10 of the ASW Player of the Year Award.

"It's been great," he says of the move to Melbourne.

"Ernie has given me a free role to roam in midfield and I love it."

Clarkson's next step is to play for Australia.

That is, he says, his next goal and his burning ambition.

But meanwhile it is all-out hard work to help the club which gave him the all-important chance to show what he could do.

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Players are now invited to join our Men & Women's Soccer teams playing in the NSW Soccer Federation Division 3, Sydney Amateur League Division 1 and in the Gladesville Hornsby Women's League First and Second Division.

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For further information please contact:

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or 597 7440 (AH)

PHOENIX-CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB

The above club is now holding trials for positions in the 1st & 2nd teams, in its tilt at the Sydney Amateur 1st Division title.

One coaching position also available.

For further information please contact:

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344 0492 (B) 398 7858 (AH)



You go your way, I'll go mine... Liverpool full-back Steve Burrowes (left) gives his opponent the slip as the Reds knock Southampton out of the FA Cup

GEELONG ADVERTISER CUP

BY ROY HAY

GEELONG and North Geelong will play in the final of the 1990 Geelong Advertiser Cup on Friday night.

The Jones boys — Steve and Mel — saw Geelong home 2-1 against Corio-Geelong United in the second semi-final last Friday.

Geelong had much more of the play and despite the cajoling and prompting of player-coach, Brendan Lakic, Corio-Geelong United never looked like winning the match.

Neil Plummer found space on the right after 13 minutes and his fine cross was headed home by Steve Jones as keeper Laurie Cicero dived in vain.

Geelong then made a hash of a clearance in defence and Slobodan Bosevski intercepted to release Brendan Lakic.

He ran through unchallenged to equalise. Steve Tonic then outpaced the Geelong defence but seemed to stumble over the ball as he was tackled.

The second half began with a series of

Geelong attacks in which Neil Plummer, Mel Jones and Peter McCaffrey all had shots which came close. A strange substitution by Corio-Geelong United saw Bosevski leave the field after contesting fiercely in midfield.

Into the gap came Geelong sweeper Donny Smythe who made ground and crossed to the far post where two Geelong players were unattended and Mel Jones headed an easy winner.

Fielding one of the youngest teams ever to take part in the Geelong Advertiser Cup, North Geelong survived a constant barrage by Bell Park to triumph by the only goal of the game in the first semi-final at Stead Park last week.

For the first 20 minutes Bell Park pounded the North goal, with Mark Linney, Mick Oppermann, John Coutts and Rod van der Chys all having reasonable opportunities to score.

Miro Stosic and Mirko Brandich relieved the pressure with

attempts for North

North came into the game as Park began to give the ball away in midfield and Brandich set up Ivan Skoko whose shot was deflected for a corner. David Krasic pounded a free kick into the Bell Park net, but it was an indirect free and the North cheers were silenced.

Half-time came with no goals, but Sam McNeillage then set up Mark Linney, who controlled the ball and fired it towards goal only for Ismail Ali of North to tip it over.

The keeper made an even better double handed save from Lin-

ney as George Watters was already acclaiming a goal.

There were only nine minutes left to play when Bell Park frittered away three opportunities to get the ball into the box and the North defence cleared it downfield.

Sam McNeillage, caught in two minds, failed to intercept and the ball was transferred to 16-year-old substitute Adrian Cervinski clear on the right.

His low cross behind the Bell Park defence was touched home by John Hrkac, who further extended his record as the all-time top scorer in the Geelong Advertiser Cup.



Socceroo keeper Jeff Oliver passed on tips at training to Adam Oates, Geelong City. PHOTO BY ROY HAY.

JUNIOR CLUBS AND SCHOOLS

SEND your stories and photographs to AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY. Team and action photos will be welcomed. Address all material to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

NATIONAL DIRECTOR EDDIE THOMSON

will conduct a coaching session at Valentine Park on Friday 9th March, 1990 at 7pm

All coaches are welcome to attend and later discuss the session with Eddie over a cup of tea or coffee.

Hellas White blitz week Melbourne JUST

BY ROY HAY

SOUTH Melbourne Hellas White blitzed Melbourne City JUST 5-1 at Middle Park on Saturday, with in-form striker Con Boutsianis scoring Hellas's first four goals.

He put Hellas in the lead after 21 minutes when the JUST defence stopped expecting offside and he went on to chip the ball neatly over Peter Sorocuk.

The second was a gift by the JUST defence which failed to clear the ball, and the third came when he found himself one-on-one with Sorocuk, who managed to get a hand on the ball, but Boutsianis dragged it clear and put it into the empty net.

The league's leading scorer Saso Becvinovski outjumped the Hellas defence to nod the ball over Michael Liliakakis following a free kick by Vasko Mitrovski. Boutsianis was given time to turn and control the ball in the JUST box for his fourth goal and Peter Haloulou ran through from deep to make it five. Sorocuk saved a penalty kick by Haloulou to prevent an even heavier defeat for JUST.

It was one-way traffic at Somers Street as Melbourne Croatia ran up eight goals without reply by Clifton Hill. Richard Milanovic and Hus Skenderovic, just returned from touring with the Victorian schoolboys, scored twice and the others came from Paul Juric, Steve Horvat, Joe Calata and Mark Silic.

South Melbourne Hellas Blue kept plugging away at Altona Gate and held the second top team to three-all at Paisley Park. Neither side appreciated the bumpy outside pitch, and Goran Lozanovski and Ivo Kutlesovski with two kept putting Altona Gate one goal ahead, only for Vince de la Plaza with two and Peter Kyrikilis to reply each time for Hellas Blue.

Stavros Mangos and Sam Papadopoulos scored for Heidelberg United in a 2-1 victory over North Geelong at Olympic Village. North's reply was by Josip Skoko who forced the ball in from close range after David Cervinski headed on a corner kick. Both sides had a player sent-off in the second half.

Then with 71 minutes played Robbie Noggler took on and beat three men before firing a low shot into the corner of the net. In the last minute, Bozinovski was brought down in the box and Noggler made City's lead secure with a coolly placed penalty kick.

Results

South Melbourne Hellas White 5 (Boutsianis 4, Haloulou 1) Melbourne City JUST 1 (Becvinovski), Geelong City 2 (Noggler 2) Caulfield City 0, Heidelberg United 2 (Mangos, Papadopoulos) North Geelong 1 (Skoko), Melbourne Croatia 8 (Juric, Silic, Calata, Horvat, Milanovic 2, Skenderovic 2) Clifton Hill 0, Altona Gate 3 (Lozanovski, Kutlesovski 2) South Melbourne Hellas Blue 3, (Plaza 2, Kyrikilis), East Richmond 2 (Apidopoulos, Kalantzis) Preston Makedonia 2.

Ladder

	P	W	D	L	A	Pts
Melb Croatia	14	13	1	0	53	12 27
Altona Gate	14	10	2	2	40	13 22
SMHW	16	10	2	4	31	16 22
Sunshine GC	14	8	4	2	34	20 20
Melb City JUST	16	7	4	5	43	32 8
Geelong City	15	7	1	7	26	34 15
Preston Mace	14	6	2	6	25	22 14
Heidelberg Utd	15	4	4	7	16	27 12
North Geelong	14	5	0	9	26	29 10
East Richmond	15	4	2	9	24	39 10
Caulfield City	14	1	4	9	14	31 8
SMHB	14	2	2	10	16	42 8
Clifton Hill	11	2	0	9	9	41 4

Topscorers

Saso Becvinovski 21, Joe Bacak 15, Con Boutsianis 11, Adrian Cervinski 10, Trajce Lutomanski 7, Kevin Muscat 7, Charles Fitzpatrick 6, Joe Makrovac 6, Robin Stankovski 6.

Fairfield City Soccer Club



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US tour a learning experience for Qld

BY GREG RUSSELL WHO TOURED WITH THE QUEENSLAND TEAM

THE Queensland indoor soccer team returned from its tour of the United States with 50 reasons to prove that the Americans are among the best in the world at playing off the walls.

The Queenslanders, who played in the US as the "Sunshine Shooters", lost all five games in the American Airlines Cup.

They scored in each match for a total of nine, but conceded a massive half-century as the Americans displayed what they have learned in 12 years of playing indoor soccer.

Despite the hefty goal deficit, the Queenslanders were not disgraced and the 14 tourists now must be in the forefront for selection in a national team which will be invited to play in a Super Six tournament in Brisbane later this year.

The tournament will feature top British sides, a team from Japan and a select side from America's Major Indoor Soccer League. Queensland coach Bruce Stowell has no doubts the MISL team will start red-hot favourites.

"They are far better at playing the type of game than anyone in Australia could imagine," Stowell said. "I doubt whether any side of outdoor players could take on the Americans cold as we did and come away with a result."

"But from the experience of playing in the American Airlines Cup, many of the Queenslanders have got to form the basis of any national side for the Super 6."

"If the Australian team is based on the Queensland players who have stood out on this tour, they'll beat the touring English sides and play the Americans in the final."

The tour highlighted that the Super 6 tournament at Brisbane's Bondall Complex last year gave Australian fans only a glimpse of the potential of indoor soccer off the walls.

"Our tour has shown us just how far off the mark everyone was in the Super 6," Stowell said.

The MISL statistics prove Stowell's claims are not just an attempt to make an excuse for the tour thrashings, although not all the games were one-sided with the Queenslanders giving Dallas Sidekicks a run for their money.

In the 12 years since the MISL's inception, the league's teams (which presently number 10) have played 27 matches against international opposition.

The MISL sides have



Bruce Stowell (left): US tour was good indoor learning process.

been beaten only five times, with the last defeat in 1978.

The opposition since has included the Soviet Union's Dynamo Minsk, East Germany's Locomotiv Leipzig and Mexico's Guadalajara.

"We were in pretty good company as losers," Stowell said.

The American indoor scene leaves Australian soccer, indoors and outdoors, far behind in terms of professionalism and promotion.

The majority of indoor players are full-time with wages ranging from \$45,000 to \$90,000. Apprentices are employed at \$500 a month.

Each club has fulltime coaches, promoting officers and office staff which in some cases number up to 18.

Their games have become brilliantly promoted family entertainment, using rock music, laser shows and giveaways to complement the on-field action. And the Americans are responding.

The Queensland touring party were among a 14,869-strong crowd which watched Dallas Sidekicks, coached by Gordon Jago, beat Chris Nichols' Wichita Wings in overtime in a thrilling interstate derby.

The winner was scored by a tiny Brazilian named Tatu who has become a sporting hero in Texas, a state which a decade ago had hardly heard of soccer.

The feature of the promotion was the number of children in the crowd. Many of them had played games leading up to the indoor game.

Stowell is convinced the game could work in Australia. "Obviously it would not take over outdoor soccer, because that is too entrenched. But I can see no reason why it could not be run as an adjunct and used

as a mean of attracting new fans to the code," he said.

If we could get enough of the right stadiums and a workable draw, I could see the game being a great success as a pre-season or off-season event."

Details of Queensland's history-making tour were:

- ★ v Tacoma Stars L 2-12
- ★ v Wichita Wings L 1-10
- ★ v Dallas Sidekicks L 3-6
- ★ v Kansas City Comets L 1-5
- ★ v St Louis Storm L 2-16

Hellas to seek South Americans

ADELAIDE HELLAS may look to South America to boost its playing personnel.

But time is against it having any recruits as guests this season.

A local contact with South America has told an agent there to closely monitor any suitable players in Uruguay who want to play in Australia.

The season there has closed down at present and by the time it re-starts and all necessary

paperwork is completed it would be too late to bring recruits here.

But two yusa players could be found for next season if Hellas stays in the big league.

Regular players in Uruguay reportedly only make about \$3000 a month so there could be financial inducements to come here.

Hellas also has attracted Floreat Athena stars Paul Farmer and Jeff Curran from WA.

Both trained with the club last week.

Brisbane Croatia in pre-season shock

BY GREG RUSSELL

BRISBANE Croatia caused the first surprise of the Queensland XXXX pre-season tournament when they defeated Olympic United 4-2 on penalties in their opening round game last week.

The victory, after a 1-1 90 minute scoreline, proved an ominous warning that Croatia might finally fulfil their potential in Queensland soccer under the guidance of new coach Brian Styles.

Styles has been lured to Dunn Road after stints with Ipswich United and Coalstars, whom he coached to grand final success.

Goalkeeper Rob Harrison, who transferred to Croatia from Redlands last season and captained the side for the last part of the year, was the star in the win over Olympic United. Harrison saved twice in the penalty shoot-out.

Croatia dominated the first half and it was only the agility of Olympic keeper Graham Ross, who has spent the off-season doing triathlons, that kept his team in the match. Tony Babic scored Croatia's goal in the 27th minute with a well-placed header off a Radomir Vidacic cross.

Lions, last season's championship favourites who were overshadowed by North Star all year, opened their 1990 campaign with a workmanlike win over the new-look Coalstars.

Youngsters Brendan Eastwell and Chris Slater netted for Lions who went into the match without a string of regulars including Russell Stewart and Rob Farrow. Queensland representative Nick Meredith showed he is ready to build on the fitness he gained during the state indoor team's tour of United States earlier this month with an impressive performance.

Coalstars, whose goal was netted by Darren Pettie, also were under-strength, with new signing Peter Vogler on the injured list. But the Coalminers gave indications they will be the darkhorses of this year's XXXX League following the signing of John Ogden, Vogler and the return of Mark Gilbert.

Pine Rivers, last year's boom side after their promotion from Division Two, got their second year in the top league off to a successful start with a 3-1 win over Division Two side St Helen's (formerly Ipswich United).

Rivers got off to an easy start with a penalty after just five minutes, which Clayton Koch expertly put away.

St Helen's counter-attacked and had a Brad Smith goal disallowed for offside but their

pressure was rewarded a minute later when Smith netted legally when he deflected a Stewart Cleaver volley into the goal.

Rivers took control of the game in the second half with Koch netting his second in the 75th minute with a spectacular header after good combination from John Preston and Noel Carroll.

Rivers, who are set to sign the much-travelled George Caird to add experience to their squad, sealed the game in the final minute when a John Schiavo shot was deflected to the far post where Preston volleyed in.

Last season's grand final winners, Easts were beaten in a penalty shoot-out in their opening match of the 1990 pre-season tournament.

Easts played a gruelling 1-1 draw with Brisbane City, which required the shoot-out. City keeper Wayne Evans, who was transfer-listed until the appointment of Juan Cutillas as coach, proved the hero when he saved an attempt by Easts striker Colin Phelen. City won the shoot-out 5-4.

Easts went down in their second match of the series, again by penalties. The Tigers



STEVE GLOCKNER

survived a torrid 90 minutes against Taringa Rovers, who hit the woodwork twice in the final 10 minutes, before they were beaten 3-2 in the shoot-out.

Taringa surprisingly rested new signing Steve Glockner but forwards Jarrod Austin and David Munn were particularly outstanding.

Orange Thistle made their first appearance under new coach Matt Carson, who has won five local grand finals in 10 appearances, when they were unlucky 2-1 losers to Mount Gravatt.

Former Rochdale Rovers Kiwi import Brent Simpson scored both the Hawks goals while David Melville netted for Thistle.

The tournament continues this week with matches on Wednesday, February 21.

THE WA SCENE

BY RICHARD KREIDER

Stirling Macedonia threw down the gauntlet to Perth Italia and Floreat Athena following their impressive 3-0 hiding of Spearwood Dalmatinac during the third round of the Pepsi night soccer series at the Lake Moner Velodrome.

The ease of their win had surprised many people, especially when Dalmatinac had demolished Kingsway Olympic 8-0 a week earlier.

The Reds' dramatic reversal of form has injected added interest into the competition when it appeared it would once again become a two horse race.

Athena could well be the team to step aside after two ordinary performances against newly-promoted Kwana United (2-2) and bottom side Olympic (1-1).

The only win the Floreat club have managed was a 4-0 triumph against a raw Macedo-

nia on the opening night of Group B fixtures.

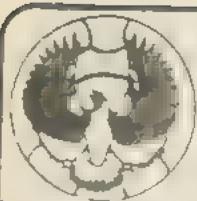
Since then, Macedonia have taken over from where Athena dropped off.

Young winger Stan Lazaridis is another player to move from Olympic, and has already tormented many opponents with his pacy runs and accurate centring.

The two other players to complete the exodus from the Kingsway club are striker Paul Tomhides and midfielder Craig Surtees who went overseas with the Australian schoolboys late last year.

In Group A, Italia and Bayswater Inter are leading with two wins each followed by North Perth Croatia and Sorrento.

Sorrento made an early exit winning just one game from their four fixtures, and scoring only three goals after their main striker Colin Lester was sidelined through injury.



ALAN CLARK REVIEWS

The Soccer Scene
in . . .

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ADFLAIDE fans this season can expect to see a new **Putanec**.

But Croatia's midfielder maestro already has shown his 'different face' is effective by carrying off the \$500 Ampol Cup Player of the Series award.

Putanec, 25, topped referee and media voting for the night series in his second season in SA.

The midfielder was regarded last year as a player of class and grace who could be put off his game by a more robust performance from opponents.

But the 'new' Putanec has tempered talent with steel.

"Last year I realised I was getting some treatment from players trying to put me off my game and I have become more aggressive myself this time," said Putanec through an interpreter.

"I won't be going out to kick people but I'll be looking after myself."

Putanec, who played for 14 years with NK Zagreb, believes playing standards in SA are rising.

"They are not as high as in Europe but there is fast improvement," he said. "I am enjoying playing in Australia."

Putanec and wife Suncana (Susie) have settled well in Australia and are keen to start a family here.

"Raising a family and playing in the NSL with Croatia are my main aims," said Putanec.

"I would like to help Croatia into the NSL and play with them there. I feel we can win the League this season though there are some good sides around."

"There is much better training at the club this year and there is a good atmosphere with everyone wanting to do well."

Croatia, meanwhile, is pleased with the form of former Joey squad member Douglas Paterson, 17.

He has slotted in well in defence and looks a player with a big future.

CAMPBELLTOWN striker Simon Murdoch is seeking a clearance to Brisbane City.

Mercurial Murdoch, at his best, is one of the most dangerous strikers in SA but has had fluctuating form in recent seasons.

The moves to the Sunshine State could be just the tonic he needs.

POLONIA fans look to have some good news in the wake of their Ampol Cup exit to He las.

Striker Phil Scardigno, carried off with a knee injury, later was able to walk away from Hindmarsh unaided.

He seems unlikely to need surgery on the ligament injury.

Polonia is looking at signing one of the Campbelltown striking trio of Tyrone Fava or Steve McNally who are training at the club.

Fava looks the more likely signing.

MODBURY has bought Salisbury utility player Aaron Bray.

They could need him, too.

Coach Steve Amos, Bryan Kent, Bryan Edwards, Neil Edwards, Martin Cockerill, Carl Whitehead, Kevin Llewellyn and Brian Gale all are on the injury list.

CUMBERLAND United has attracted some top new Foxes to the bar for its re-introduction to the Foundation SA League First Division.

Coach Dave Baker has moved to strengthen every playing department for his promoted squad.

Striker Manny Mangafakis is an astute buy from Blackwood. He looms as a big threat to opposing defences this season.

Angie Ditroia, winner of the Bob Telfer Medal as the Second Division's best and fairest last season, also has signed from Omonia.

He is joined by teammate Irishman Dennis Noble. The big blond-haired defender looks sure to make a big impact on the top league.

Completing this week's signing is Beograd utility player Greg Kalinovic.

The foursome joins the Foxes squad which already has been boosted by the signing of Bernie Bridges (defender, Lion), Gordon Costello (midfielder, Seaford), Peter Wayne (striker, Para Hills), Mark Chumbley, mid-field-striker, Elizabeth).

FORMER Hellas and Salisbury strongman Tim Brown will not be returning to SA.

He has been loaned to Brisbane Croatia on a year's loan.

SALISBURY has won SA's first tournament for the season.

The Berries beat host Beograd 3-1 in the final of a four-team competition.

Salisbury earlier knocked out Omonia on penalties with Beograd inflicting the same fate on Modbury.

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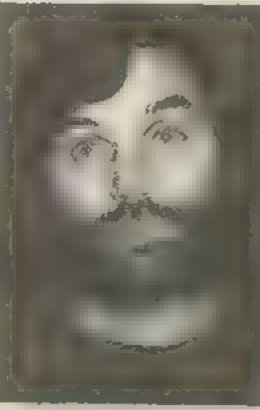
Robert Zabica saves from Wollongong City's Paul McFadden at Hindmarsh Stadium as Adelaide City team-mate Tony Vidmar looks on — JANUSZ KAMMA photo.

The Tasmanian scene

BY WALTER PLESS

Almost 2000 spectators showed up at the South Hobart soccer ground to watch George Best's West Point Hotel Casino XI defeat a British Airways World XI 8-7.

The British Airways team was managed by Best's former team-mate at Manchester United, Denis Law.



GEORGE BEST

The match had plenty of goals, but those who had come to see flashes of genius from Best were sadly disappointed.

The former Manchester United and Northern Ireland star was obviously carrying a knee injury and rarely broke out of a trot.

His performance last year at Devonport was 100 per cent better than at South Hobart, but at least Best has finally made an appearance in the capital of Tasmania, thus enabling many more people to see him in action.

And, he did score a goal, even if it was from the penalty spot, and for the opposing team.

But, it was after all, only a charity match, with the proceeds going

to the Cosmos Special School and Camp Quality.

For the record, West Point's goals came from Alastair Hales (3), Paul Xanthopoulos (2), David Stoddart, David Crossan and an own goal, while British Airways' scorers were Sergio Pace (3), Ian Parker (2), Dominic Fraraccio and George Best.

White Eagle, the reigning Cadbury State League champion, will be very difficult to displace from its pedestal this season.

In recent practice matches, White Eagle demolished Caledonian 6-1 and Croatia-Glenorchy 6-0, despite being without star strikers Richard Leszczynski and Brett Harwood.

Leszczynski has announced his retirement at the early age of 23, while Harwood was unavailable for personal reasons.

White Eagle coach Eugene Mycak is happy with his team's preparations to date and he is confident of a successful year.

Apart from team training sessions, Mycak conducts individual sessions for certain players, including goalkeeper Peter Groenewoud, who is keen to try his luck in the Out NSL in the near future.

Eagle captain and sweeper, Mark Leszczynski, has recovered from a successful knee operation late last year and has come through the practice matches without any problems.

Leszczynski sees Hobart Juventus, Launceston Juventus and Olympia as Eagle's main rivals this season, but he is confident of achieving a hat-trick of titles, providing the club can avoid major injuries.

The Tasmanian Soccer Federation has appointed Les Bee as its full-time State director of coaching.

Bee, 41, was previously the director of coaching in the ACT, where he was involved in several youth development programmes.

He is currently representing Tasmania at a conference of State coaching directors in Canberra but will not actually start his duties in Tasmania until the end of February.

DID YOU KNOW!

— THAT Manfred Schaefer made his national team debut in Saigon (now Ho-Chi-Minh City) on November 5, 1967?

The Apia coach was in the Australian side which defeated New Zealand 5-3 in the opening match of the Vietnam National Day Tournament.

The Aussies, captained by John Warren and coached by Joe Viasis, went on to win the eight-nation competition.

USA the team to beat

BY GRAHAM COOKE

THE United States is laying a solid foundation in its campaign for the first Women's World Cup in 1991, Australian School-girls coach Steve Gillespie believes.

If the opposition we come up against on tour is anything

beat," he said.

Gillespie led six matches on a tour of the US and Britain, winning two, drawing one and losing three.

It was the first match against the California Olympic Youth Development Squad, which gave Gillespie his biggest shock.

"We lost 7-0, just one of the finest women's teams I have ever seen," he said. "I just wish we had the kind of organisation that can produce players like that."

"Having said that, we were holding them until our goalkeeper, Natalie Syros, had to go off after taking a kick in the knee midway through the first half."

"Our other keeper, Sara King, had already

been ruled out because of sickness, so we had to use a field player in goal. That put us right behind the eight ball."

Better things were to come with a 3-1 win over Kingswood High School in Houston with goals from Melinda Bullivant (NSW), Susan Wainwright (ACT) and Sharon Black (South Australia).

This was followed by a 0-0 draw with Meadows and 5

0 losses to another club side Phoenix.

The tour was completed in Britain with a hard-fought 3-1 win over Manchester City Women, goals coming from Mara Kreismanis (South Australia), Bullivant and a City defender.

"We were scheduled to play Arsenal Women, but that was the day the hurricane struck Britain and we had to give up the idea after the players found they were being blown over out on the pitch," Gillespie said.

Player of the tour was central defender Cheryl Salisbury (NSW).

Schoolboys home

BY GRAHAM COOKE

THE Australian schoolboys team has returned from a successful tour of the United States and Britain, winning four and drawing one of its seven games.

Coach Tom Sermanni said the players learnt from a mixed bag of opposition which ranged from leading English youth players to American semi-professional seniors.

The tour got off to a slow start with a 1-1 draw against Combined California Colleges followed by a 1-0 loss to California Select.

"In both games we did enough to win, and our comeback in the last 25 minutes against the select side deserved to get us at least a draw," Sermanni said.

The rewards began to flow on the second leg of the tour in Houston. A game against Kingswood High School turned into a 6-1 winning romp then, against a semi-professional club side called Meadows, the

Australians recovered from being 2-0 down to win 5-2.

Further victories followed against age-group teams supplied by another club, the Texans, 4-0 and 6-3, before the squad flew to Britain.

Only one match was possible there because of bad weather — the schoolboys losing 1-0 to the youth team of First Division Manchester City.

"We played the better football but simply could not put the ball in the net," Sermanni said.

Victorian Hus Sken-dorovic was leading scorer on the tour with seven goals, followed by Rob Peruzza (Western Australia) 5, Wayne Attard (Victoria) 3, Glen Thomson (ACT) 2, Chris Tribbick (Queensland), John Francesca (South Australia), Joe Guastella (South Australia), Nick Politis (North Territory) and an own goal one each.

The players' player for the tour was sweeper Glen Gwynne (Queensland) and Sermanni named stopper Tribbick as the coach's player.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY welcomes Letters to the Editor.

They should be signed, with name, address and telephone number stated.

Mail letters to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

They may cover any relevant topic in the entire world of soccer.



Amateurs, Juniors and Schools News

Send your stories and pictures to
AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY, PO BOX 406 BROADWAY 2007
Telephone (02) 660 2033 FAX (02) 692 0649

THE question of which club becomes the 1989 Commonwealth Bank under 10 Champion of Champions has now been finalised.

With the wisdom of Solomon, Campbelltown Police Boys and Maroubra United share the honours.

The NSW Amateur Federation is hoping to receive a better deal on accommodation and meals prices at Valentine Park, which could lead to much wider use of the motel units.

Gladesville Hornsby referees president Ron Beaumont is keen to cover all matches this season. New senior and cadet referees can contact Don Sinclair on 855 797 at night.

There is a strong and welcome move to include NSW Country under 13, 14 and 15 years teams in the next national championships.

The NSW Amateur Federation general manager will receive free rail travel and in addition a grant of \$2500 will be received from the NSW Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing to assist towards the conduct of junior coaching camps. The availability of the grant can be a big help

to the country branches, and take some strain off the finances of the parents involved.

A reminder that the 1990 season heralds in the obligatory use of shinguards by all NSW Amateurs players. The new ruling is that no player will be allowed to take the field unless he is wearing this piece of equipment.

Amateur clubs throughout NSW have had very successful recruiting drives for junior players over the past few weeks. However, there are a few areas where techniques are not of the highest order, and NSW general manager Cec Buccello will be recommending some improvements for 1991.

Newcastle television station NBN3 will again be sponsoring the Big Dog soccer competition, following its 1989 success. NBN3 provides free television exposure through its viewing area, which covers the mid-North Coast as well as the Hunter region itself. "Big Dog" will be conducted by the Newcastle Junior Soccer Association for the under 10 teams on July 7/8 1990 and a nomination fee of \$10 is required along with written entries. These should be sent as soon as possible to Max Norden, 225 Cessnock Rd, Abermain 2326. (Phone 049 304 365 and Fax 049 304 575).

ble to Max Norden, 225 Cessnock Rd, Abermain 2326. (Phone 049 304 365 and Fax 049 304 575).

— KEITH GILMOUR

CALL FOR UNDER 16s

NSW has come into line following the Australian Soccer Federation's call for nominations from the states for teams to compete in the 1990 National under 16 Championships.

State Director of Coaching David Lee will receive telephone requests direct from interested players at the NSW Federation's Valentine Park office (02 629 1800).

The offer is open to all players born after August 1 1973.

Australia was awarded the 1993 World Youth Championships finals by FIFA.

The camp for players included in the wide birth date will be aiming for the next under 17 years "Joeys" team, as well as the 1993 World Youth Cup side.

The ASF has yet to decide the host state for the 1990 under 16 nationals.

Frank Arok and Ron Smith have already had the nucleus of the under 17 squad training together at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Monday Expo

THE Bates Drive Soccer Complex at Kirrawee will be the centre for the final Soccer Expo promotion next Monday night, February 26 from 6.30pm to 9pm.

This will be the final opportunity for NSW associations and clubs to examine the goods put on show by the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation's licensees, who staff the exhibits on the night.

Earlier Expos were held at the St Ives Community Hall and the Marconi Youth Hall.

The Federation also has discussions in hand with additional companies which are keen to associate themselves with soccer.

Kanga Cup being planned

BY KEITH GILMOUR

THE NSW Amateur Soccer Federation has been greatly impressed by the potential of international club matches for junior teams.

Conducted at various levels throughout Europe and the United States, these junior games have proved highly competitive.

In addition, they have brought together children from different nations and cultures in great festivals of junior sport.

NSW Amateur general manager Cec Buccello said: "Staging such a tournament — and 'Kanga Cup' would be a great name for it — would give soccer tremendous exposure in NSW."

"We have all the general information at hand, and quite possibly I will go overseas later this year to examine the workings of one of the big tournaments on the spot."

Australia has, of course, some disadvantage in travel distances from Europe and the United States, but substantial entries would see airlines providing air passages at very competitive rates.

In addition, given due notice so that funds can be raised, New Zealand junior clubs from cities such as Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch in particular are certain to show a deal of interest.

New Caledonia, too, has the infrastructure and potential to send teams, with Fiji another possibility.

As it stands, Sports Exchange, which has many overseas contacts, has been appointed the NSW Amateur Federation's international travel agent.

Fees provide a deal of the overall cost during peak seasons, for away trips and the difficulty will be that teams will be mid-season in Australia.

Although general playing standards may not be as high, US trips such as the International Friendships Cup in Denver, Colorado USA, represents good value.

The current all inclusive cost is approx \$2,300 per player or official.

This compares very favourably with an average of approx \$3,000 per person to Europe.

Many European countries would be in their close seasons if a Kanga Cup was conducted in NSW in July.

At that stage of the year Europe has many tournaments, including the Dana Cup and Copenhagen Cup (Denmark).

Gothia and Stockholm Cups (Sweden), Norway Cup (Norway) and Hatters Cup (Luton, England).

Arranging a 'Kanga Cup' is just one of the projects that Mr Buccello will be able to attend to when the new administrative officer is appointed.

His main duties will then revolve around marketing, sponsorship and promotion.

Director Jim Forrest has provided a paper setting out the duties for the proposed new position.



The winning team celebrates a triumph in the famous Norway Youth Cup. Will Australia soon stage its very own international tournament?

Tamatea High to make first trip down under

TAMATEA High School from New Zealand's Hawkes Bay area will be making its first soccer tour of Australia in May this year.

The driving force behind the venture is Maths-Science teacher Paul Turner who has his squad working with a will raising all the necessary funds in a wide variety of endeavours.

Paul, who holds a NZ Preliminary Coaching Certificate, is a far more qualified referee, controlling fixtures in New Zealand's Central League which is one step below their National League.

The manager of Tamatea High is Patrick McKinley, who is head of the Physics-Science Department. Patrick is a convert to soccer by way of his sons, who are keen junior players.

Tamatea High is a co-educational school with a high academic and sporting record.

The suburb of Tamatea is in the western section of the city of Napier and has connections with the first

Maori warriors and their war canoes.

The first grade side finished fourth last year in the Hawkes Bay Secondary Senior A competition. That was a creditable performance in a competition that includes the powerful Hastings Boys High, well known to many schools on Australia's east coast following their visits over recent years.

Tamatea will play four matches during May against Turramurra High, Murrumbidgee High, Newcastle Grammar and Coffs Harbour's Orara High.

Coach Paul Turner nominated Jarod Smith as a striker who will catch the eye. He is pinning much of the team's success on classy midfielder Scott Ivory who has already been chosen at under 15 and under 16 in the New Zealand select squad.

After those efforts and many more, the boys from Tamatea High deserve their trip. It has been earned.

Westfields Parramatta celebrity presentation

THIS is the programme for Saturday's big promotion at Westfields Parramatta Shopping Centre:

Andy Paschalidis, SBS Personality, and Sydney Olympic players will also be there.

Every player that registers on the day will be eligible for a major prize.

10am — Blacktown City Soccer Club
Bob Brooks, Director as MC, Charlie Yankos, Zlatko Arambasic, Laurie McKinna and Kurt Reynolds as players.

11am — Parramatta Melita Eagles Soccer Club
Sam Vella, President as MC, Greg Dickenson, Alex McPherson, Washington Gonzalez and Ray Farrugia as players.

11.30am — Southern Districts 12-year-old Age Group Representatives squad.

12pm — National Women's Players
Uwe Bracklow as MC, Tracie Wheeler, Kaye Yardin, Tracey Bartlett and Jackie Hadden as players.

National under 15 titles

ONE NSW centre yet to be finalised will be the host for the national under 15 championships from Saturday July 7/Sunday July 15.

NSW Amateur Soccer Federation general manager Cec Buccello has had expressions of interest from associations which include Macarthur and Lismore.

The Macleay Soccer Association from the NSW North Coast made an early bid, but found the necessary resourcing beyond them.

Darwin has been granted the under 13 titles, to take place from Saturday September 29/Sunday October 6.

The under 14 championship will be conducted in Launceston from Saturday September 8/Sunday September 16.

NSW Amateur Federation 1990 advance planner

MARCH

FRIDAY 2: NSWASF Executive Meeting
SUNDAY 4: UMBRO Youth League — Round 1
FRIDAY 9: Sydney Branch Meeting
SUNDAY 11: UMBRO Youth League — Round 2
FRIDAY 16: NSWASF Executive Meeting
SUNDAY 18: UMBRO Youth League — Round 3
SUNDAY 25: UMBRO Youth League — Round 4
FRIDAY 30: NSWASF Executive Meeting

APRIL

SUNDAY 1: UMBRO Youth League — Round 5
Mitre Metropolitan Reps — Round 1
FRIDAY 6: Sydney Branch Meeting
SATURDAY 7: UMBRO Youth League — Round 6
SUNDAY 8: Mitre Metropolitan Reps — Round 2
THURSDAY 12: Country Reps 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 in camp
FRIDAY 13: Holidays commence
SATURDAY 14: UMBRO Youth League — R7
MONDAY 16: State 15 team in camp
UMBRO Youth League — Round 8
TUESDAY 17: C/wealth Bank Centenary Cup R1
WEDNESDAY 18: C/wealth Bank Centenary Cup R2
THURSDAY 19: C/wealth Bank Centenary Cup R3
FRIDAY 20: C/wealth Bank Centenary Cup Final
NSWASF Executive Meeting
SATURDAY 21: UMBRO Youth League — R9
SUNDAY 22: Mitre Metropolitan Reps — R3
Holidays finish
WEDNESDAY 25: UMBRO Youth League — R10
Mitre Metropolitan Reps — R4
ANZAC DAY
SATURDAY 28: UMBRO Youth League — R11
SUNDAY 29: Mitre Metropolitan Reps — R5



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HISTORY OF THE WORLD CUP (CHILE 1962)



Brazil's Amarildo (left) embraces team-mates after his team's 1962 World Cup final win in Santiago.

GROUP 1

URUGUAY v COLOMBIA	2-1
USSR v YUGOSLAVIA	2-0
YUGOSLAVIA v URUGUAY	3-1
USSR v COLOMBIA	4-4
USSR v URUGUAY	2-1
YUGOSLAVIA v COLOMBIA	5-0

POINTS

USSR	3	2	1	0	8	5	5
YUGOSLAVIA	3	2	0	1	8	3	4
URUGUAY	3	1	0	2	4	6	2
COLOMBIA	3	0	0	3	5	11	0

GROUP 2

CHILE v SWITZERLAND	3-1
WEST GERMANY v ITALY	0-0
CHILE v ITALY	2-0
WEST GERMANY v SWITZERLAND	2-1
WEST GERMANY v CHILE	2-0
ITALY v SWITZERLAND	3-0

POINTS

WEST GERMANY	3	2	1	0	4	1	5
CHILE	3	2	0	1	5	3	4
ITALY	3	1	1	1	3	2	3
SWITZERLAND	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

GROUP 3

BRAZIL v MEXICO	2-0
CZECHOSLOVAKIA v SPAIN	1-0
BRAZIL v CZECHOSLOVAKIA	0-0
SPAIN v MEXICO	1-0
BRAZIL v SPAIN	2-1
MEXICO v CZECHOSLOVAKIA	3-1

POINTS

BRAZIL	3	2	1	0	4	1	5
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
MEXICO	3	1	0	2	3	4	2
SPAIN	3	1	0	2	2	8	2

GROUP 4

ARGENTINA v BULGARIA	1-0
HUNGARY v ENGLAND	2-1
ENGLAND v ARGENTINA	3-1
HUNGARY v BULGARIA	6-1
ARGENTINA v HUNGARY	0-0
ENGLAND v BULGARIA	0-0

POINTS

HUNGARY	3	2	1	0	8	2	5
ENGLAND	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
ARGENTINA	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
BULGARIA	3	0	1	2	1	7	1

QUARTER-FINALS

YUGOSLAVIA v WEST GERMANY	1-0
BRAZIL v ENGLAND	3-1
CHILE v USSR	2-1
CZECHOSLOVAKIA v HUNGARY	1-0

SEMI-FINALS

BRAZIL v CHILE	4-2
CZECHOSLOVAKIA v YUGOSLAVIA	3-1

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

CHILE v YUGOSLAVIA	1-0
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FINAL

BRAZIL v CZECHOSLOVAKIA	3-1
-------------------------	-----

LEADING SCORER: Drazan Jerkovic (Yugoslavia) 5.

The 1962 competition, in Chile, is remembered as the one everyone wants to forget.

Poor standards, defensive football and vicious tackling made it the most disappointing of all the modern World Cups.

The selection of Chile, hardly a major footballing nation, was in itself surprising, particularly as the country was just recovering from a disastrous earthquake.

Nevertheless, Chile organised the series well, having constructed several new stadiums.

England were the only British representatives. Scotland having been eliminated by Czechoslovakia, Wales by Spain, and Northern Ireland by West Germany.

But England, without a settled centre-forward, looked apprehensive.

Chile started well enough in Group 2 by beating Switzerland 3-1

in the new stadium at Santiago.

The next match on the ground, between West Germany and Italy, produced an early example of the typical 1962 match: a defensive, goalless draw.

Group 2 was then host to the most violent game in the series, between Chile and Italy, where two Italians were sent off and some of the acting was worthy of a bad western.

Chile won 2-0 against nine men and qualified with West Germany, who beat Switzerland and the hosts.

In Group 1, at Arica in the far north, the European sides emerged unbeaten against Uruguay and Colombia, the USSR winning the decider against Yugoslavia. The group, too, was plagued by violence on the field.

At Vina del Mar, in Group 3, Brazil opened (as they had in 1950 and 1954) by beating Mexico, this time by 2-0.

But they were not in form, and Pele, making the first and scoring the second, was the only spark.

The next day Czechoslovakia had a good win over a 'Spanish' side that included Argentine Santamaria and Hungarian Ferenc Puskas but missed an injured Alfredo Di Stefano.

The Czechs, with goalkeeper Schroiff and Popluhar outstanding, then held Brazil to a goalless draw, but in the 25th minute the champions lost Pele for the rest of the game — and the tournament — with a severely pulled muscle.

Spain, despite their talented line-up, only

squeezed through against Mexico with a last-minute goal by Peiro.

Then Brazil and Spain drew the largest crowd of the group (18,715), and Amarildo, Pele's teenage deputy, score twice in the last 10 minutes to wipe out Spain's early lead.

Group 4, at Rancagua, started with Argentina scoring the only goal of a mundane encounter with Bulgaria.

The following day Hungary beat a pedestrian England side 2-1.

The best crowd of the group — but still under 10,000 — turned up to see an improved England beat Argentina 3-1.

The Hungarians then trounced Bulgaria 6-1, Florian Albert scoring a brilliant hat-trick and

Lajos Tichy two, but the last two games were both goalless.

Of the quarter-finals the highest scoring was at Vina del Mar, where England met a Brazil side playing 'at home'.

Garrincha, springing to life after a quiet time in the qualifiers, headed a 31st minute lead. Hitchens, replacing the injured Peacock, equalised after Greaves hit the bar, but Garrincha won the game in the second-half: first goalkeeper Springett failed to hold his shot and Vava followed up to score, and then he scored the third with a long, swerving shot.

At Arica, Chile caught goalie Lev Yashin on a bad day and he should have saved both goals, from Sanchez and Rojas.

Hungary had Czechoslovakia pinned down at Rancagua, but the Czechs, held on tenaciously to Scherer's 13th minute goal to go through.

In Santiago, Yugoslavia at last beat Germany in a quarter-final, Radakovic scoring from Galic's pass with only four minutes left.

Garrincha again inspired Brazil in the semi-final against Chile, played in front of 76,594 (the biggest crowd of

the series) at Santiago.

He scored from 20 metres after nine minutes, and then headed another from a corner.

Brazil ran out 4-2 winners, but the match was spoilt when Landa and Garrincha were sent off.

The cat-and-mouse tactics of the Czechs came off again against Yugoslavia at Vina del Mar, and they won 3-1 against the general run of play.

In the final, Czechoslovakia took on Brazil for the second time in the competition.

With Kvasnak dictating a steady pace in mid-field, the Czechs took a lead when Josef Masopust (later voted European Footballer of the Year) scored after Scherer had made the opening.

They then broke down in the position they least expected — goalkeeper.

Amarildo equalised with an amazing shot from on the byline; Zito headed in Amarildo's cross from close-in, 13 minutes from time; and Willem Schroiff (who later played for Slavia in Melbourne) dropped Djalma Santos' high cross into the sun to present Vava with number three.

World Cup safety

SAFETY fears are being expressed about Italy's World Cup grounds, some of which are drastically behind schedule because of bureaucratic hold-ups and political battles in several cities.

Organising committees from many of the 12 centres made their safety fears public after the deaths of nine site workers at the grounds in recent months.

Five have been killed at Palermo, two at Genoa and one each at Turin and Bologna since last September.

Part of the stadium collapsed at Palermo killing the five, while most of the others

have been caused by falls and the collapse of cranes.

Work is behind schedule at Rome, Naples and again Palermo, which has forced contractors to speed up operations.

Organising committees say this is leading to often precarious conditions on construction sites.

The Italian grounds are now just six weeks from the final inspection by FIFA.

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Saint in control... Southampton's Mathew Le Tissier steers the ball away from Andy Thorn of Crystal Palace

Sepp Piontek to step down

DANISH national team coach Sepp Piontek, embittered by unfavourable Danish media reports, said he would resign when his contract expired a mid-June.

Piontek, in Stockholm for the qualifying draw for the 1992 European soccer championship, said: "I resign. I am being portrayed as a crook. Enough is enough."

Piontek, who had been negotiating a new

four-year contract with the Danish Football Association, denied press suggestions of tax evasion and reports of unreasonable salary demands.

"I received a call at midnight from a newspaper which wanted to know if I was hiding away money abroad," he said.

"That was the final straw. I have always paid my tax in Denmark."

Piontek is a West German. He became Denmark's national

soccer coach in 1979 and since then the Danes have enjoyed the most successful soccer decade in their history.

Denmark qualified for the European championship finals in France (1984) when they were beaten by Spain in a memorable semi-final, and for the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico.

It also reached the 1988 European Championship finals in West Germany, but this year failed to qualify for the World Cup finals in Italy.

Mechelen sack Ruud Krol

CRACK Belgian club Mechelen have sacked their Dutch coach, former great Ruud Krol, who only took over this season.

Mechelen's temporary coach is another Dutchman, Fi Van Hoof, who was Aad de Mos' assistant last season.

Krol, said he was "fully surprised" but not shocked, by his sacking.

"Club president John Cordier told me the team was sitting on a bomb ticking away, and he wanted to part now in a friendly fashion. He emphasized Mechelen needed a more experienced coach."

"But a European competition quarterfinal slot and a second place in the national table is not too bad for a coach after four months in a completely new situation, now is it?" he said.

Krol, in his first head coaching job, had replaced his old friend Aad de Mos, who signed with Anderlecht.

De Mos, commenting cautiously, recalled that he had begun his career on the lower rungs of the managerial ladder.

"Maybe Krol should have done the same," he said.

Club president John Cordier said: "It was I who offered him this job, and I take part of the blame. I ran regular evaluations of his performance and the last proved negative."

"The team was performing under par especially in away games," Cordier said, referring to the string of goalless draws that sparked decline in the club's revenues as more and more fans declined to make the trip to see another 90 minutes of soccer with no goals.

Mechelen players weren't so hard on Krol.

"He was the first coach who approached his men in a very civil way," said fullback Koen Sanders. "Afterwards, one could say too civil, perhaps, but Mr Krol had no experience at all it being his first assignment as trainer. He did the best he could."



Ruud Krol when he was starring for Napoli in the late 1970s.

Play-off finals at Wembley Stadium

WEMBLEY has been booked to stage the end-of-season play-off finals as the English Football League underlined its commitment to crowd safety.

The decision was taken at a management committee meeting in Manchester where Lord Justice Taylor's Hillsborough Report was top of the agenda.

It means that nearly a quarter of a million people will be able to watch as their clubs battle for a place in the Third, Second and First Divisions over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend.

Wembley will have an 80,000 all-seater capacity for the matches on May 26, 27 and 28.

League assistant secretary Andy Williamson confirmed the main rationale behind taking fans to Wembley is very much safety and security.

"They are high-profile matches which are quite likely to attract audiences which can't be accommodated on League grounds," he said.

"The last thing we would want to have is a situation where we can't put everybody in."

The play-off semi-final will go ahead as usual on a home and away basis, while Williamson said that there was a chance the finals could be televised.

Williamson added that this year's Littlewoods Cup winners will miss out on Europe should League clubs return to the fold after a five-year absence.

UEFA agreed at a meeting last year that they would readmit English sides — they have been banned since



the Heysel carnage — but only if the Government gives the go-ahead.

The League do not expect that to happen until after the World Cup finals, but a maximum of three sides would be involved if it happened.

They would be the League champions, the FA Cup winners and, in the UEFA Cup, the club that finish runners-up in the First Division rather than the team winning the Littlewoods Cup.

The representation could be even less, for Liverpool are due to be banned for another three years.

☐ NOBODY really expects Scotland to win the World Cup in Italy — but the Scottish players will split \$1 million if they can pull off the impossible.

The Scottish FA has offered each player around \$60,000 if the team takes the Cup.

But if they fail to get beyond the first round against Costa Rica, Sweden and Brazil, all they will pick up is \$6000 each.

☐ SWINDON Town chairman Brian Hillier has been banned from football for six months for betting on his club to lose.

But West Ham manager Lou Macari, who was in charge of Swindon when it lost 5-0 to Newcastle in an FA Cup fourth-round match in 1988, escaped a ban.

★★★



Bervatto, of Lazio, heads the ball in unconventional fashion as Carlo Ancelotti looks on in Italian league action.

Marco keeps his cool

BY MARK RYAN*

MARCO Van Basten is keeping his cool despite the extraordinary problems which threaten to undermine Holland's World Cup campaign.

Endless questions about the Dutch hooligan threat, the injury to

told an Italian journalist: "He is not my wife." But he was more re-

terested in entering into the hooligan debate by sending a message of peace to the England fans. "You can talk about the problem for weeks, but it only makes matters worse. So the less said the better."

"But I believe the Italian police will be extremely well prepared for any troublemakers."

Van Basten is certainly no supporter of claims that the Dutch fans are the worst troublemakers of all.

He says: "We have a few problems at club level with fans from teams such as Ajax, Feyenoord and FC Den Haag."

"But at international level there is rarely any trouble from Dutch crowds. I didn't see our followers misbehaving at the European Championships in West Germany."

"There may be one or two supporters who are out of their minds and want to get drunk and fight. But virtually all our fans will be in Italy to enjoy the football, just like everyone else."

Player-power is rife again in Holland and some stars have expressed dissatisfaction with the way manager Libregts plays for results at the expense of entertaining football.

Van Basten admits there is a problem but doesn't see it as a threat to Holland's overall campaign in Italy.

"OK, we have some difficulties in this area at the moment. But what's new? Every time we are about to go into a major competition something like this seems to happen — we won't let it get to us."

Calculating

Very little seems to get to the calculating Van Basten... except perhaps the uncanny World Cup draw itself.

Despite his success two years ago against England and Eire, (his goals destroyed England) van Basten says: "I wasn't pleased when I heard the draw. England and Eire are very strong sides."

"When we beat England in West Germany, I must admit they had quite a lot of bad luck."

"Now they are better still because Bobby Robson hasn't changed too many players. You may say England didn't score too many goals qualifying for the World Cup."

But I've got news for you — they scored more than Holland. England managed 10 goals, we only scored eight."

* reprinted courtesy SHOOT Magazine



Marco van Basten scoring one of his three goals for AC Milan against Atalanta recently.

strike partner Ruud Gullit and the tensions between national manager Thijs Libregts and his team might have unnerved a less resilient sporting superstar.

But Van Basten has taken it all in his stride, undaunted by the worst possible scenario in Sardinia this summer.

"If the fans start fighting and the trouble gets so bad that England and Holland are told they can't play anymore, then what else can we do but pack our bags, say thanks and go home," he explains calmly.

Nor is he losing sleep over reports that Gullit, Van Basten's injured friend and strike-partner at both club and international level, could miss the World Cup due to serious knee trouble.

Once, when asked if he missed Gullit, nonsense Van Basten

vealing on Gullit and the Dutch team's dependency on his unique skills.

"Ruud is back in Italy again," he says. "He is trying to get fit with exercises but he can't kick a football yet."

"After what happened last time, when the injury became swollen again in training, the doctors have told Ruud not to make the same mistake by trying to start playing again too soon."

"But Holland will be strong with or without Ruud Gullit. We have other great players in Frank Rijkaard and our sweeper Ronald Koeman and we have an excellent defence."

"Naturally we will be stronger if Ruud can play — but we have good enough players to manage without him too."

But Marco isn't in-



ALEXIS GARCIA — Colombia's star midfielder.



West German Herbert Waas, the Bayer Leverkusen star now on loan in Italy, struts his stuff.

SOUTH AMERICAN SCENE

BY MARIO ETCHART

Colo Colo, the most popular club in Chile won its 16th national title in its 50 year's history, after a dramatic 1-1 draw with Cobresal.

The match, played at Colo Colo stadium, in front of 62,000 spectators, was hard fought during an intense 90 minutes of play.

The "Colo Colino" fans celebrated until the early hours of the next day.

Colo Colo finished the competition with 20 wins, five draws and an equal number of defeats; scored 60 goals and conceding 28.

Arch-rival, Universidad Catolica finished in second place, three points behind the champion, with Cobreloa in third position.

Universidad Catolica, Deportivo La Serena, Cobresal and Cobreloa will have to play a tournament to earn a place in this year's Libertadores Cup. Colo Colo has already qualified.

Rangers and Deportivo Valdivia were relegated, while glamour club, Universidad de Chile, who was relegated to Second Division last season, return to the National League with Palestino.

Colo Colo previously won the Chilean league in 1937, 1939, 1941, 1944, 1947, 1953, 1956, 1960, 1963, 1970, 1972, 1979, 1981, 1983 and 1986.

Union Huaral became the Peruvian national champion after a dramatic encounter that went into extra-time.

Huaral beat Sporting Cristal with a goal scored by mid-

fielder Aguirre in the 112th minute.

The champions were coached by Yugoslav Simo Vilibic. Both teams qualified for the Libertadores Cup.

History was made in Uruguayan soccer when for the first time the big guns, Penarol and Nacional, didn't qualify for the Libertadores Cup.

Uruguayan champion Progreso, under the guidance of ex-Wollongong midfielder and free kick specialist, Saul Rivero, and Defensor Sporting qualified for the major tournament at club level in South America, shocking the nation.

In a double-header, played at the historic Centenario stadium of Montevideo, in front of 50,000 people, Defensor Sporting defeated Bella Vista 2-1, while Progreso drew 1-1 with Penarol. Penarol needed a win to go through.

Since the beginning of the Libertadores Cup, Penarol and Nacional almost always represented their country.

Now with the big change, a new era has begun and Penarol and Nacional's monopoly has ended.

Low rated Defensor Sporting and Progreso, both with little international experience, will face the Venezuelan clubs, Mineros de Guayana y Pepeganga de Margarita, in the first qualifying round of the Libertadores Cup.

The Colombian Government

offered protection to players of the Colombian national squad, that qualified for the World Cup.

The move is directed to stop interference in the team's build-up preparation for Italy 90.

A group called "The cleaners of Colombian soccer" threatened to kill four players and the national coach Francisco Maturana, who resigned some days ago and ordered his players to cease all training.

Interior Minister, Carlos Lemos, announced a security plan to protect players and coaches from any threat.

The players threatened are flamboyant goalkeeper Rene Higuita, Leonel Alvarez, Andres Escobar and Luis Perea, all under contract with 1989 Libertadores Cup champion, Atletico Nacional.

Atletico Nacional was, in the past, the property of Hernan Botero Moreno, who was sentenced to 25 years in prison in the United States for money laundering derived from drug trafficking.

Chief of Police, General Miguel Maza was authorised by the Government, together with Education Minister Manuel Becerra and national coach Francisco Maturana to set up a security plan.

The Colombian soccer league was suspended last November after a referee was assassinated. Since then, Colombia had very little preparation.

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER

- Portuguese ace Paulo Futre has renewed his contract with Atletico Madrid. The 23-year-old striker will remain with the Spanish club until June 1993.
- AS Monaco's former Argentine international striker Ramon Diaz is to apply for Italian citizenship. When his contract in France expires he will settle in Florence where he owns a house.
- John Hansen, the Danish striker for started for Juventus in the early 'fifties, has died in Copenhagen at the age of 65. Hansen scored 124 goals in 1987 matches for Juve.
- Real Valladolid, of Spain, have been strengthened by the loan of Argentine defender Oscar Lozano from league leaders Independiente.
- Olimpia Tegucigalpa are the champions of Honduras for 1989/90. They beat Real Espana 1-0 in the title play-off.
- Three foreigners fill the leading three positions atop the Spanish goalscoring chart: the Mexican Sanchez, Austrian Polster and Dutchman Koeman.
- Second Division West German club Fortuna Dusseldorf have signed Soviet international midfielder, Viktor Passulko for \$350,000. The 29-year-old ex-Spartak Moscow player has played 10 times for the USSR.
- England and Denmark will meet in a friendly at Wembley on May 15 — their third meeting in 20 months. Denmark will have played Turkey in Copenhagen three weeks earlier.
- Sparta Prague's Czechoslovakian international striker Stanislav Griga has signed a three-year contract with Feyenoord. The ailing Rotterdam club paid Spartak \$1.2 million for their 27-year-old player, who has appeared 17 times for the national side.
- Barcelona Guayaquil have won the Ecuadoran championship. The title was clinched after a 0-0 draw with Deportivo Quito — played behind closed gates after their earlier clash had been postponed because of crowd violence when Quito led 1-0.

Zico's Gala

ZICO, one of Brazil's greatest all-time stars, played his official farewell game at the Maracana stadium in front of nearly 100,000 fans earlier this month.

Some of the top soccer players from the last decade, including Germans Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Paul Breitner, Dutchman Rudi Krol, Italian Claudio Gentile and Argentine Mario Kempes, as well as Zico's former and current Flamengo teammates took part in the game.

Although it is customary in testimonial games for the player of honour to keep the gate receipts, Zico donated the \$100,000 toward the building of Brazil's first hospital for haemophiliacs.

Four different teams played. The first half was contested between members of the Flamengo team that won the World Club Cup in 1981 and a Masters team made up of players from the 1978 and 1982 World Cups.

In the second half, the current Flamengo side played a World Cup Masters team of currently active players.

The first half ended scoreless with outstanding play by Rummenigge and Masters' goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel.

Flamengo took the lead in the 53rd minute on a goal by defender Fernando, but goals by Claudio Adao and Tarantini, both from passes by Bebeto, put the Masters ahead.

An 80th minute goal by Fernando made the final score 2-2.

Although Zico did not score, he provided two of the game's best moments by dribbling through the opponents' defence. His closest chance came on a left-foot shot in the second half which was saved by Taffarel.

Zico's entrance at the start of the match was greeted by a display of laser lights and showers of ticker tape from fans.

On leaving the pitch at the end of the match, Zico took a lap of honour which was followed by a fireworks display.



In step ... Aston Villa's Ian Olney (white shorts) and Sheffield Wednesday defender Peter Shirliff do a pas de deux during Villa's 1-0 home win.

Bryan Robson out another six weeks

BY LOU GAUTIER

MANCHESTER United and England captain Bryan Robson had a groin operation and will be out of soccer for six to eight weeks, his club manager said.

"It turned out not to be a hernia," said United manager Alex Ferguson, "but if we had not had the operation done quickly it could have turned into a hernia."

"He was examined

by a top surgeon in London and the outcome was an operation."

Midfielder Robson's groin injury has kept him out of football for six weeks, missing United's last nine matches.



ZICO — the world showed up for his testimonial in Rio earlier this month.

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2. 06 Days	: 19 June — 24 June	: Prelim
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5. 03/04 Days	: between 29/6 — 03/7	: Quarter final
6. 03/04 Days	: between 02-06 July	: Semi-final
7. 04 Days	: 06 July — 09 July	: Play off 3-4 Place
8. 04 Days	: 07 July — 10 July	: Final
9. 18 Days	: 23 June — 11 July	: 1/8 & 1/4 & 1/2 final & final
10. 14 Days	: 23 June — 06 July	: 1/8 & 1/4 and semi-final
11. 11 Days	: 01 July — 11 July	: semifinal, 3/4 Place or final
12. 09 Days	: 28 June — 06 July	: Quarter and semifinal
13. 09 Days	: 05 July — 12 July	: Play off 3/4 or final

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